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LD1205124588 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

A new cease-fire sponsored by Syria and Iran was observed by the warring parties in southern Beirut 12 May, albeit with intermittent violations, Beirut radio reported.

The agreement was reached during a meeting at the Iranian Embassy following repeated contacts between the Iranian and Syrian presidents, who both called for vigorous efforts to end the fighting, according to IRNA.

The Iranian agency noted that Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Syrian Colonel 'Ali Hammud, and representatives of the Amal Movement and Hizballah agreed on a formula whereby a cease-fire would be supervised by observers, and this would be followed by evacuation of the wounded, an exchange of POW's, and the withdrawal of gunmen. Iran and Syria would "jointly act" against violators.

The new cease-fire agreement followed further fighting in which Hizballah gained control of "most" of the southern suburb, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Personnel manning many Amal centers in the suburb have withdrawn from Amal and allied themselves with Hizballah, calling themselves the "Faithful Resistance."

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon likewise stated that the suburb has "fallen" to Hizballah, adding that Amal leader Nabih Birri's power in the area has "collapsed."

On the possibility of Syrian intervention, raised in recent statements by Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported that Kan'an has sent a report to Damascus recommending the entry of Syrian forces into the southern suburb as the only solution to the conflict there.

The Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council expressed support for the idea of expanding the Syrian security plan to the suburb in a statement cited by Voice of Lebanon radio.

Meanwhile, Beirut radio broadcast a scathing attack on the fighting by Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, who described the clashes as "God's curse on guns and gunmen" and an "absurd" war waged by "those who have become slaves of their guns."

Nicosia Explosion

Cypriot police arrested a Lebanese student in connection with the 11 May car bomb explosion which killed three people and injured eight, Nicosia radio reported.

The PLO condemned the bombing in a statement cited by AFP, asserting that "this criminal act is aimed at damaging relations between the PLO and the Cypriot Government."

YAR: Explosion at U.S. Embassy

In a statement to the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD cited by WAM, the YAR interior minister denied reports that a rocket was fired at the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa 10 May, stressing that the incident was "not of this dimension."

All that happened, he said, was that an explosion occurred on the third floor of the embassy, shattering window panes.

AFP noted that the minister's statement contradicted a U.S. official's assertion that the building was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Israel

Occupied Territories—A military court in Nabulus charged 95 residents of Qabatiyah with deliberately killing local resident Muhammad 'Ayd Zahrani on 24 February, IDF radio reported, noting that the defendants pleaded not guilty.

Security forces have arrested four more Palestinian journalists working for AL-FAJR and the banned paper AL-'AWDAH, Jerusalem radio noted. On the Palestinian side, the "Unified National Command of the Uprising" issued "Communique No 16," which calls for a new campaign of civil disobedience and urges Gaza residents to boycott the new identity cards being issued by the authorities, according to the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio.

Peres Tour—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's attitude is "serious and constructive" and U.S.-Soviet differences of opinion on the international conference can be bridged if there is a will to accomplish this, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres affirmed in an interview with Jerusalem radio following his arrival in New York.

Peres had earlier held further talks with Soviet officials in Madrid, the radio noted, and he also met with former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, who conveyed new proposals from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the Taba issue.

Iraq

Gulf Raids—Iraqi warplanes raided two large maritime targets off the Iranian coast the night of 11 May, scoring "accurate and effective" hits, a military spokesman announced in a statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

Minister's Dismissal—A presidential decree relieved Sadiq Hamid Allush from his post as minister of health after it was confirmed that he "neglected his duties," INA reported. Allush's dismissal was in accordance with a recommendation by the National Assembly.

Kuwait

Talks between Kuwaiti officials and visiting Soviet Foreign Ministry official Mikhail Sytenko were held in an atmosphere of "frankness," KUNA reported. The discussions covered the Gulf conflict, the Palestinian issue, and the forthcoming U.S.-Soviet summit.

On relations with Iran, the minister of state for foreign affairs sent a message to the Arab League drawing attention to the "seriousness" of Iranian "threats and allegations" against Kuwait, KUNA noted.

He accused Iran of increasing tension in the region through its "overt and covert" threats against Kuwait's safety and security.

Afghanistan

Soviet troops began to evacuate Jalalabad 12 May, according to resistance sources cited by AFP. A large armored column left the city for Kabul, while other Soviet troops evacuated the nearby town of Samar Kheyl. Resistance sources also reported that a Soviet helicopter was shot down during an air raid outside Jalalabad the same day, the agency added.

The Supreme Council of the opposition seven-party alliance approved a constitution for the "Islamic State of Afghanistan" during a recent meeting in Peshawar, XINHUA reported, citing a mujahidin source.

In another development, the Pakistani Foreign Office summoned the Afghan charge d'affaires to protest the 9 May air attack near Arandu involving 30 Afghan aircraft.

Correction to 11 May Middle East Review

This correction pertains to the 11 May Middle East and South Asia Review published in the 11 May Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 1:

In the Lebanon section, first paragraph, sentence three should read: ...death and destruction," according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Speaking after a... (correcting source)

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on U.S. Role in Al-Wazir Assassination

JN111057 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1013 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 May (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that the United States colluded in the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, in Tunis last month.

In a joint statement with Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD and the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR published today, 'Arafat said the PLO has evidence of the United States' participation in this operation which was an implementation of a decision by the Israeli Inner Cabinet and of prior permission by the U.S. Administration.

'Arafat said the United States not only abstained from voting on the UN Security Council resolution issued last April to condemn Israel for violating Tunisia's security and sovereignty, but insisted that the name of Israel be left out of the resolution and put it in the introduction only, and then abstained from voting.

'Arafat said that the war between the PLO and the Palestinian people on one hand and the Zionist enemy on the other has its ups and downs.

'Arafat said that the Israeli objective behind the practices of repression and assassination and the storming of Palestinian towns is controlling, containing, and encircling the Palestinian people's blessed uprising.

He affirmed that the Palestinian people have overcome the psychological crisis resulting from the martyrdom of Abu Jihad with capability and confidence. He affirmed that Israel's terrorist practices will fan the fire under the feet of invaders in the occupied territories.

'Arafat said the liberation of Al-Faw represents a determination to liberate occupied Arab land and is a good omen for what will happen in Palestine.

He added: We are here launching the slogan "from Gaza to Basra—one battle."

He said: This slogan is chanted by those struggling with the sacred stones in occupied Palestine in confronting the Zionist enemy and the strategic U.S. ally standing behind it.

For his part, Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, affirmed that a new chapter was opened in the relations between Syria and the PLO after Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Damascus and his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

In his joint statement with 'Arafat to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD and the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, Khalaf said there have been no conditions for this meeting or for any future relations with Syria. He said Syria has a viewpoint regarding the PLO's relations with Cairo and Israeli forces.

He affirmed that the Syrians did not make it a condition that viewpoints be the basis for relations between the PLO and Syria. He added: This is proved by the fact that we have met without severing or freezing relations with Cairo or progressive Israeli forces.

Abu Iyad said: We and the Syrian brothers reached an approach for understanding based on cooperation, agreement, and dialogue over what we disagree about.

He affirmed that the dialogue regarding what has been agreed upon deals with supporting, backing, and enhancing the uprising and supporting the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Abu Iyad added that the agreement between the two parties was to absolutely confront the U.S. initatives aimed at strangling and liquidating the uprising as well as to confront any initiatives to present a solution that will not achieve the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

Abu Iyad noted that the Palestinian understanding of Syria's stand on the Shultz initative is that Syria opposes it because Syria believes that the initiative did not bring anything new on the level of national Palestinian rights. Syria and the PLO agree on the analysis that this initiative does not create an atmosphere for a real settlement or genuine peace.

Khalaf announced that the Fatah delegation agreed with the Syrians during the visit to Damascus by Abu 'Ammar that the Syrians will prepare for an agreement with the PNSF, which still has its own stands. The mission of the Fatah delegation, which remained in Damascus, was to meet with the PNSF organizations separately, not as one front.

He affirmed Fatah's readiness to hold a dialogue with the brothers in the Al-Sa'iqah Oranization and the PFLP-GC. He said that the Fatah dissidents have their own situation, which should be discussed in the PNC.

Salah Khalaf affirmed there are no problems or sensitivities between Jordan and the PLO. He said that the visit to Amman by Yasir 'Arafat can take place at any time. It is left to Brother Abu 'Ammar's circumstances, schedule, and movements.

Khalaf expressed his belief that none of the Arab countries that Shultz visited agreed with what he presented or was convinced by his views. And the evidence is that his

three tours were doomed to failure and could not succeed because his views ignore the crux and essence of the issue, that is, the cause of the Palestinian people.

He added that the main objective of the Shultz plan is to save Israel from the crisis in which the uprising has put it. The plan is also an attempt to show the world that the United States is moving and that it has not remained with its arms crossed.

Abu Iyad expressed his conviction that the present year will not be the year of the international conference because it is the year of American and Israeli elections.

He said the settlement will not tip in our favor as Arabs to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement unless the Arab front becomes strong.

He affirmed the need to support the uprising through real Arab solidarity that can opt for war or peace.

Salah Khalaf said that resolving the Afghan problem will help resolve the issue of the Palestinian people, based on the fact it is one of the hotbeds of tension in the Third World and in the region. This, consequently, will help in concentrating to resolve the Middle East issue.

With regard to what has been said that the USSR asked the PLO to recognize Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 as a basis for any international conference to be held in the region, Abu Iyad said the USSR presented these two resolutions.

However, it also presented the idea that these two resolutions concern the Arab countries and Israel, but not the Palestinian people's rights. He added that within this framework the USSR asked the PLO to recognize the two resolutions.

But it also placed on their side the Palestinian people's national rights represented by the right to self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state. This takes place, at the same time, as a basis for the international conference. This is what the PLO calls for, frankly.

Aabu Iyad affirmed the PLO's adherence to the Cairo Declaration. He also affirmed that the PLO will not relinquish this declaration in any case. He said that the reply to Abu Jihad's assassination will be through escalating and continuing the uprising.

He added that the PLO will not be dragged into any operations outside the occupied territory. He said: "I assert that we will not be dragged into this trap and will not carry out operations outside [the occupied territory]. But patience has limits."

'Arafat's Press Adviser on U.S. 'Threat'

JN111908 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1727 GMT 11 May 88

[text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] adviser for press affairs has commented on Richard Murphy's admission that a threat was directed [words indistinct] a threat to the PLO is a new evidence of the U.S. Administration's admission of its involvement to plan for [word indistinct] against the PLO and its leaders.

He added: In light of this, we hold the U.S. Administration responsible for any terrorist operation that may be carried out against PLO leaders, offices, and institutions.

He said: The PLO has adopted [words inidistinct] U.S.-Israeli [word indistinct] against the PLO and its leaders.

The U.S. release, which was communicated to us explicitly, shows the premeditated U.S. intention to carry out such terrorist operations against the PLO and its leaders.

He added: The U.S. Administration's scheme is an indivisible part of its partnership with the Zionist forces of occupation in their attempt to abort our people's uprising, which has entered its 6th month.

He added: However, we are confident that our uprising will continue in spite of all these attempts and will further escalate.

He concluded: Shultz' new tour brings nothing new. It seeks to pursue the planning for containing our uprising. Any plans that are not based on the attainment of a solution to the core the Middle East conflict cannot pass or succeed.

If the U.S. Administration wants to play a positive role in the attainment of a just solution in the region, it must give up its stands of hostility against the Palestinian people and deal with the primary party to the conflict, the PLO.

The U.S. Administration must also recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishemnt of their independent state. So long as this does not take place, the U.S. Administration's ideas will remain dead.

PLO Says Blast Aimed at Harming Cypriot Ties

NC1105212688 Paris AFP in English 2121 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpt] Nicosia, May 11 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Wednesday condemned a car-bomb explosion that rocked the Cypriot capital earlier in the day, killing three people and injuring 31.

"The PLO strongly deplores this odious crime, expresses its profound concern and shares the sorrow of the friendly people and Government of Cyprus," the organization said in a statement here.

The PLO "denounces this criminal act and affirms its condemnation of such methods," the statement said.

"This criminal act is aimed at damaging relations between the PLO and the Cypriot Government," the statement said, adding its hope that the incident would not upset "the solid links" between the PLO and Cyprus.

"This crime and all such acts that cause innocent victims, whatever their nationality, are designed to harm the struggle of our people and the policy of the PLO," it added. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives Message From Cuba's Castro

LD1005211388 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 May 88

[Excerpt] The brother leader, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], received a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro which was described as being important.

The message was received by Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, when he met with Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Mazola and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Algeria

President Briefed on Contacts for Arab Summit

LD1105224588 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] [Words indistinct] their mission in the Arab countries, carrying messages to Arab presidents and kings.

Today, Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN party, received at the presidency of the Republic Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, before his departure for Tripoli and Tunis where he will deliver messages from the head of state to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, concerning the emergency Arab summit.

In Tunis, the official in charge of the Central Committee will also meet Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

During the audience, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia briefed the head of state on the mission he discharged in Nouakchott and Rabat where he delivered messages from President Chedli Bendjedid to Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya and King Hassan II.

Yesterday evening in Rabat, Messaadia met with the Moroccan king and handed him a message from the president of the Republic concerning the emergency Arab summit due to be held in Algiers on 7 June.

During the meeting, attended by Messrs Larbi Belkheir, director of the presidential office, Ahmed Reda Guedira, adviser to the king, and Driss Basri, minister of the interior and information, the two sides discussed the development of the Arab situation in light of the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and ways of supporting it through the emergency Arab summit.

After Amman and Baghdad, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, arrived in Damascus this afternoon where he is expected to meet President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and deliver a message from President Chadli Bendjedid concerning the emergency Arab summit in Algiers.

He will also hold talks with Syrian officials on the current situation.

U.S. Envoy Whitehead Meets With Officials

LD1005231188 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state is on an official visit to Algeria. John Whitehead had a working session at the Foreign Ministry with Secretary General Ismail Hamdani.

The two sides examined the development of the situation in the Middle East and in the occupied lands in particular, developments in the Iran-Iraq conflict, and the prospects of peace in Western Sahara.

Today, Assistant Secretary of State Whitehead was received in turn by Minister of State to the Presidency Abdelghani, Finance Minister Khellef, who is co-chairman of the Algerian-U.S. Joint Commission, and Belkacem Nabi [minister of energy, chemical and petrochemical industries].

Mr Whitehead discussed with the Algerian energy minister the development of relations in the energy field and the situation in the world oil market. [passage indistinct]

Chad

Loan Granted for Satellite Telecommunications

AB1105200488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Order No 11 authorizes the Government of the Republic of Chad to ratify a loan agreement of Fr1.3 million, that is 65 million CFA francs, signed between the National Posts and Telecommunications Office [ONTT] and the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation. The president of the Republic and head of state and chairman of the Cabinet orders:

Article 1. The Government of the Republic of Chad is authorized to ratify a loan agreement of Fr1.3 million, that is 65 million CFA francs, signed between the ONTT and the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation.

Article 2. The loan will be used in [words indistinct] of the satellite telecommunications.

Article 3. The following conditions are attached to the granting of this loan: Conditions of lending rate: 1.5 percent during the grace period; 2 percent during the period of reimbursement [words indistinct]. Conditions of duration: [words indistinct] grace period.

Article 4. The government undertakes to reimburse the loan in case of default by the Office of Telecommunications.

Article 5. This commitment is limited to the amount of the loan, that is, a maximum of 65 million CFA increase by [words indistinct] interests which will be the consequence of [words indistinct]

Article 6. The minister of finance and computerization has been charged by the government to sign any act, agreement, or convention on this loan.

Article 7. The minister of finance and computerization and the minister of posts and telecommunications are charged with the implementation of the present order which takes effect as of the date of its signature and will be registered and published in the official gazette of the Republic of Chad.

Egypt

Abu Ghazalah Interview With AL-MUSAWWAR Cited

NC1205074288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2048 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has emphasized that the memorandum of understanding which Egypt has signed with the United States is no more than a protocol that a minister signs with a foreign country.

He asked why there is so much sensitivity about matters involving the United States. He said Egypt has signed memorandums of understanding with other countries, including one with the Soviet Union.

Why should there be such a furor about the memorandum with the United States, he wondered. In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine to be published on Friday, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah says Egypt has studied all the memorandums that have been signed between the United States and other states. It has extracted the advantageous points from these and included them in this memorandum, he stated.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that the memorandum of understanding includes the following:

1. Egypt will be permitted to sell weapons to the United States if they meet the required standard.

2. Egypt will be allowed, should it so desire, to participate in any research conducted by the United States which Egypt believes can benefit the Egyptian Armed Forces.

3. Egypt may purchase increased quantities of weapons from the United States.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah denied that the memorandum contains any secret clauses or elements compromising Egyptian sovereignty or dignity. Abu Ghazalah pointed out that Egypt had signed a similar agreement for cooperation in the exchange of technical information and manufacture of the [name indistinct] plane with France 3 years ago.

Concerning the frequently made remarks to the effect that the memorandum has been (?characterized) as a "memorandum of understanding" so that it does not have to be presented to the People's Assembly, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that these comments are irresponsible.

He pointed out that this designation falls within the protocol relating to the arrangements for technical cooperation between the two countries.

In the AL-MUSAWWAR interview, Abu Ghazalah said Egypt has signed many military protocols with the Soviet Union and that Egypt has sent a delegation to inspect spare parts and discuss the procedure for dealing with them.

Asked whether Egypt could have sold some Egyptian military products to NATO without this memorandum, Abu Ghazalah said that it could not. Egypt had no right to sell Egyptian weapons to NATO because NATO has specific regulations which Egypt would have to observe before embarking on such a course, he declared.

Replying to a question about an agreement, worth approximately $5 million, signed by Egypt last year concerning specific types of lenses for various weapons, Abu Ghazalah said that the agreement was concluded with an African country and that Egypt had competed for this contract with a European country that produced such equipment.

He added that Egypt has made a request to the United States that it be permitted to bid for U.S. Army contracts, like Israel, Turkey, and the European countries. He pointed out that Egypt had emphasized to the United States that it has no objection to meeting any quality specifications and testing requirements, or to training its cadres.

He said that the memorandum of understanding allows Egypt to produce a large number of the parts for the M-1 tank. He stated that the Egyptian program for the manufacture of this tank involves the production, in the first phase, of 120 tanks a year, rising to 550 tanks in 5 years.

This represents the needs of the Armed Forces during that period. If this is achieved, no one will be able to prevent Egypt from producing any number it wants, he said.

Abu Ghazalah added that during the 1st year Egypt will only assemble the tank. In the 2d year, God willing, it will start manufacturing tank parts, as agreed. This means that the turret, gun, body, and track of the tank will be Egyptian-made, he added.

As for the tank's armor, Abu Ghazalah said that Egypt will manufacture a specific type of armor only. He pointed out that the tank has several types of armor, for

example, for the front and for the turret, to protect against anti-tank weapons. The remaining types of armor, however, could be manufactured in Egypt, he added.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah noted that Egypt is now working to set up a production line for strategic steel [al-sulb al-istratiji]. Once production starts, this will be relied upon for manufacturing most of the tank armor, he added. He noted that there will be no problem in obtaining the tank engine, but what is important here is that it must be 1,500 horsepower.

Asked how Egyptian military strategy views the strength of the enemy, Abu Ghazalah said that any country, even one with which you have a peace treaty, could become a foe in the long run should it come into collision with Egypt's strategic objectives and interests.

Evidence of this, he added, is the fact that Iraq and Iran were on good terms with each other once, and then they went to war. He denied that Egypt's extensive reliance on U.S. weapons would lead to any restriction on the use of these weapons if Egypt were obliged to use them for self-defense. He stressed that once the weapons are in Egypt's possession they become Egyptian weapons.

Regarding his recent talks in Washington, particularly those concerning military debts, Abu Ghazalah said: I am not in favor of differentiating between military and civilian debts, since both are debts that Egypt has to pay. He added that when Egypt talks about debts it means all its debts, and noted that this issue is the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy and the government.

Therefore, he added, the issue of the so-called military debts is not a matter for discussion by the defense minister, but rather by the economy minister and the prime minister.

He added that the United States has recently made some proposals to turn the government debts into commercial debts. However, the U.S. memorandum on this issue is rather vague and Egypt is studying it at the moment.

He noted that Egypt is not in any hurry over this matter since the U.S. proposals are not yet clear. They include good as well as weak points, he added.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said Egypt produces weapons that suit its needs and its theater of operations. Egypt is anxious to produce the kind of weapons that remain superior to others.

He stated that Egypt is now self-sufficient in the production of more than 60 percent of its armament needs. He explained that Egypt cannot totally depend on itself in producing large aircraft like the Mirage 2000 because of the astronomical cost.

In his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, Abu Ghazalah denied that there is any connection between the manufacture of the M-1 tank in Egypt and the local production of General Motors passenger cars.

He affirmed that there is no relationship between the implementation of any military project like the production of the M-1 tank and General Motors.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq war, Abu Ghazalah described Iraq's recapture of the Al-Faw Peninsula as a good military victory. He stressed that the Al-Faw victory will have a negative effect on Iran's morale and perhaps open the way for Iran's acceptance of some kind of cease-fire, though not an end to the war.

He expressed the belief that Iran will not agree to end the state of war or conclude peace and reconciliation with Iraq for some years. This is because Iran needs tension on its borders to ensure unity on the domestic front.

Moreover, Iran is exploiting the war to brainwash and control the Iranian people, especially the young. The war gives the Iranian rulers an excuse for the serious deterioration of the Iranian economy. All this is reason enough for the Iranian regime to prefer to keep the situation as it is now.

Abu Ghazalah also stated that the recent escalation between Iran and the United States in the Gulf was calculated, and linked to Washington's desire not to sever all ties with Tehran.

Asked whether Israel possesses nuclear weapons, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that all the evidence confirms that Israel does have nuclear weapons. The recent trial of Vanunu forms part of this evidence.

He added that serious studies of the power of the nuclear reactors with regard to the quantity of uranium which could be in Israel's possession, including that which Israel managed to smuggle in from the United States, makes it likely that Israel has between 20 and 25 nuclear bombs with a power equivalent to 21,000 tons of explosive material. This kind of bomb is equal in strength to the two bombs that were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Abu Ghazalah pointed out that Israel possesses aircraft capable of carrying this bomb to its target. However, Israel still does not have a missile capable of carrying warheads, and the Israeli Jericho missile, which has a range of 480 km, is still in the early development stage.

In the interview, Abu Ghazalah expressed the conviction that Israel might resort to nuclear force if the Arab countries unified all their energies and resources under one command, because Israel knows well that the real danger lies in the complete unity of the Arab armed forces.

The question which arises is: When will Arab resources be united? He said: I doubt whether this objective will be achieved within the next 10 years.

Abu Ghazalah noted that the problem of the Arab Industrialization Organization will be resolved when King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia visits Egypt after the 'Id, God willing.

He pointed out that some people believe that the organization should continue as it is now, while others believe that another organization should be established. However, the problem will be solved when King Fahd visits Egypt.

Asked whether there are any Egyptian military experts in the Arab countries, Abu Ghazalah said there are a number of experts in the Arab countries, particularly in Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, and Iraq.

On relations with Libya, Abu Ghazalah said Libya has not reduced its forces on the borders. He added that the main Libyan troops are deployed in the eastern sector, that is, close to the border with Egypt. He said Egypt only has observation posts to confront any contingencies.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Postpones 11 May News Conference

JN111537 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 11 May (SUNA)—The press conference scheduled to be held by the prime minister this morning has been postponed until Saturday [14 May].

In statements made following his meeting with the State Council chairman, the prime minister said that he will meet with Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] leader Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani, the previous coalition partner with the Al-Ummah Party, at a later date to discuss what has been put forward by the DUP.

The prime minister indicated that he had asked for a further 48 hours before announcing the new ministerial formation of the national reconciliation government, which had been expected at a press conference scheduled for today.

In a related development, informed sources have said that the Cabinet crisis has so far remained unsettled and added that the Al-Ummah Party and the DUP have not reached an agreement on the Interior Ministry portfolio, which was held in the previous Cabinet by Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, DUP assistant secretary general.

Dr 'Ali Hasan al-Haj, secretary of political affairs at the Islamic National Front, said that the DUP leaders have asked for additional time and added that they had not provided the prime minister with a list of their candidates for the Cabinet portfolios as of yesterday. He went on to say they had not attended a meeting they were supposed to have attended.

Meets With Party Leaders

JN111549 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 11 May (SUNA)—Various parties continued their efforts today to reach a solution to the current political crisis following the postponement of the prime minister's press conference.

'Abd al-Rahman Farah, member of the Al-Ummah Party's parliamentary committee, said that next Saturday is the country's last day without a Cabinet. He added that he hopes that the Democratic Unionist Party will be able to make the necessary decisions. He went on to say that the Interior Ministry portfolio has definitely been allocated to the Al-Ummah Party.

In a related development, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met at noon today with [National Islamic Front leader] Hasan al-Turabi, with [DUP leader] 'Ali Mirghani, and with representatives of the southern Sudan parties in a bid to secure an announcement of the new Cabinet on Saturday.

Al-Mahdi Briefs Council on Ties With Ethiopia

JN111620 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 11 May (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi briefed the State Council chairman and members yesterday on developments in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

In a meeting with the Council chairman and members, the prime minister affirmed that the process of understanding between the two countries is continuing and added that bilateral consultations are being held through various channels.

The Sudanese-Ethiopian technical committee is expected to meet in Khartoum tomorrow to complete discussions of outstanding problems. The joint ministerial committee will meet in Addis Ababa on 19 May to formulate the final recommendations for the anticipated Sudanese-Ethiopian summit.

Briefs

Meningitis Statute Lifted

Mr Karam Muhammad Karam, the commissoner of the national capital, today rescinded a local 1988 statute to prevent the spread of meningitis in the city. The statute was issued recently to enable health authorities to take measures to control the capital's meningitis epidemic. About 1,000,000 people have been vaccinated and hundreds of cases have been treated. [*LD1105031088 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 May 88*]

Kuwait

Amir Receives UAE Official, President's Message

LD1105115388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, May 11 (KUNA)—His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received Wednesday UAE State Minister for Foreign Affairs Rashid ibn 'Abdallah.

In the meeting, 'Abdallah handed the amir a letter from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan, but the content of the letter was not revealed.

The meeting was attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi and UAE ambassador to Kuwait Yusef al-Sirgal.

Rashid arrived here a few hours ago on the first leg of a mission to a number of Gulf countries to deliver messages and hold talks with officials on current developments in the region.

Government Warns Arab League of Iranian Threats

LD1105163088 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Tunis, 11 May (KUNA)—Kuwait today drew the attention of the Arab League to the seriousness of Iranian threats and allegations against it and said that these allegations coincide with overt and covert threats againt the safety and security of Kuwait, which is causing an increase in tension in the Gulf region.

This was the content of a message conveyed today by the acting Kuwaiti delegate at the Arab League, 'Abdallah al-Mas'ud, to the secretary general of the Arab League, Chedli Klibi, from the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, who stressed that these allegations "are totally false...and Kuwait has denied them through declarations by its high-ranking officials on various occasions."

Kuwait has sent a similar message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Minister al-'Usaymi said further: "Such increasing Iranian allegations accompany overt and covert threats against the safety and security of Kuwait."

He stressed in the message that "while Kuwait is practicing self control in the face of such threats and allegations, it draws the attention of the Arab League to their seriousness, mainly that Iran might put them into practice, as it previously fired a missile on a Kuwaiti residential area on 20 April 1988."

Minister al-'Usaymi stressed: "Such threats increase tension in the region, while Kuwait is endeavoring to put an end to this destructive war between sisterly Iraq and Iran."

Daily on U.S. 'Indirect Threat' Against 'Arafat

LD1205100088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0906 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, May 12 (KUNA)—English language local daily 'KUWAIT TIMES' Thursday while commenting on the U.S. recent indirect threat to kill the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said that "Who would believe, for instance that the United States would send out dire threats to kill 'Arafat, and to none but 'Arafat himself".

Affirming the power of the Zionist influence to get the Reagan administration to obey its command, the paper editorially said that "whatever one might say, or prefer not to say it has to be admitted that the uninhibited candor impresses or frightens and appalls, the Zionist inspiration is too obvious." [sentence as received]

The paper hopefully said that "We could still like to believe that an Israeli agent though the U.S. has probably been in this case, it has not been a free and willing one." It added "but it is a sad day when official Washington chooses to stoop to this level."

The daily noted, the kind of threat that has been addressed to the Palestinian leader hurts one side of the U.S. Administration quite as it seeks to shake the PLO leadership, as it has been delivered just three weeks before Secretary of State George Shultz is to pick up the threads of his Mideast peace plan.

However, the paper concluded that "assassination threats do not contribute to processes of peace, they don't in any way help his mission."

Saudi Arabia

UAE Foreign Ministry Official Arrives 11 May

LD1105193688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1347 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 11 may (SPA)—Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived this afternoon in Jeddah on a visit to the Kingdom during which he will perform the minor pilgrimage. [passage omitted]

King Receives Message

LD1105222488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1832 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Mecca, 11 May (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, may God protect him, has received a message from his brother, His Excellency Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE.

The message was delivered by his excellency the minister of state for foreign affairs in the UAE, Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, when he was received at the office of the

custodian of the two holy mosques at Al-Safah Palace this evening. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister.

'Source' Denies MENA Report on Funds, Deposits

LD1105092788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0130 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Riyadh [no date as received] (SPA)—Commenting on a MENA report from Cairo today on a World Bank economic report that the deposits of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia amount to $50.1 billion while its loans amounted to $11.3 billion, a responsible source at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy has told SPA that the information contained in the report is unfounded and wrong.

The source added: If the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had financial deposits of that magnitude, it would not have been compelled to borrow to consolidate its general budget for the current fiscal year, something that was publicly announced at the time.

Moreover, the Kingdom spends most of its annual revenues on development projects and on meeting its external financial commitments on time.

In conclusion, the responsible source said the source of this information should have gotten the facts about these statistics if it wanted to maintain its credibility.

U.S. Veto on UN Censure of Israel Viewed

LD1105232788 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 May 88

[Husayn al-'Aksari commentary]

[Excerpts] The United States has used the right of veto against a draft resolution at the United Nations condemning the latest Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The U.S. decision to resort to using the right of veto against any resolution condemning Israel has become, it appears, a part of the U.S. stance at the United Nations toward any international resolution condemning Israel.

For this reason it is unnecessary to discuss what was done by the U.S. Administration yesterday by using the right of veto to defeat a draft resolution prepared by the UN Security Council condemning the Israeli enemy's recent invasion of southern Lebanon.

In spite of the repetition of the U.S. position, the matter is not devoid of a new element—not on the level of the U.S. position but arising from the Israeli enemy's decision to describe its invasion of southern Lebanon, its raid of the towns and villages, and the killing of innocent people under the pretext of looking for elements of the Lebanese resistance, as a limited measure to secure the Israeli presence in the border strip between Lebanon and occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

The U.S. decision to resort to the use of the right of veto in order to prevent the UN Security Council's condemnation of the recent Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon comes within an attempt to lessen the psychological pressure.

The acuity of the latter will only be decreased by pressing the Israeli enemy to deal with realities, whereas the protection of its terrorist practices will add to its lightheadedness and its commitment to more foolishness, the damage from which will not stop at the borders of the area of conflict but will go beyond.

Yemen Arab Republic

Minister Denies Rocket Fired at U.S. Embassy

JN1205083288 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 May (WAM)—YAR Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah Barakat has denied reports on the firing of a rocket at the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD cited the Yemeni minister as saying that the incident was not of this dimension. All that happened, he said, was that an explosion occurred on the third floor of the embassy building right after evening prayers the day before yesterday which only shattered window panes.

Presidential Decree Dismisses Health Minister

JN111818 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 May (INA)—A presidential decree was issued here today relieving Sadiq Hamid Allush of his post as minister of health after it was been confirmed that he has neglected his duties. The minister was relieved upon the recommendation of the National Assembly.

The Iraqi National Assembly is empowered to inspect the departments of the government and the mixed sector and to summon the prime minister, ministers, and officials on the order of the president for questioning to ascertain that they are performing their duties as well as possible.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,174

JN111743 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 May 88

[Communique No 3,174 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The results of our units' activities last night and today were as follows:

1. To deprive the Iranian regime of its oil supplies used for committing aggression against our country, our Air Force launched a raid on a large maritime target at dawn today near the Iranian coast. Having carried out an accurate and effective hit, our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our helicopter gunships flew 21 combat missions, inflicting new losses on the aggressors. They returned safely to base in God's care.

3. Three infantry positions, one medium bulldozer, and four vehicles, one of them carrying personnel, were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector. Three scoundrels were killed and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Two enemy soldiers were killed and five ammunition dumps and two observation posts were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Six others were also killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the V Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. Our units on the VII Army Corps front also achieved the following: killing four enemy personnel; destroying one hovercraft, one shovel [preceding word in English], and nine various positions; destroying and burning two vehicles; and blowing up four ammunition dumps.

6. The criminal Iranian regime shelled residential areas in the townships of Qal'at Dizah and Darband-i Khan once again in an attempt to reignite the cities war.

The hostile shelling wounded one child and damaged some property. We repeat our warning to the defeated charlatan regime that we will retaliate for such crimes with the way they know well and at the appropriate time.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 May 1988

Planes Raid 'Maritime Targets'

JN1205052088 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0504 GMT 12 May 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 12 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To continue destruction of the Iranian enemy's oil revenues, our bold Air Force launched two successful raids on two large maritime targets off the Iranian coast last night. Our true hawks dealt them two accurate and effective blows and returned with their planes safely to base in God's care and protection.

[Dated] 12 May 1988

Peres, Soviets Hold Second Round of Talks 11 May
TA1105184588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpts] In Madrid, Foreign Minister Peres held a second round of talks today with Soviet officials. Also during the day Peres met with former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, who flew to the Spanish capital to present new proposals on solving the Tabah border dispute.

More on the day's diplomatic activity at the Socialist International conference in Madrid from reporter Mark Weiss:

The foreign minister expressed satisfaction at his second round of talks with Soviet officials in Madrid. Soviet sources in the Spanish capital said the contents of the Madrid discussions with Peres will be passed on to Soviet leader Gorbachev and will provide the basis for talks on the Middle East at the forthcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

Peres told reporters following the talks that the Soviet Union could discuss reestablishing diplomatic ties with Israel after an agreement is reached on a Middle East peace conference. [passage omitted]

Also in the Spanish capital today was former Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil. He flew in specially to present Peres with new proposals from President Mubarak on the Tabah dispute.

This last-ditch attempt before the matter is decided by arbitration involves Egyptian concessions in certain areas, but still insists on full Egyptian sovereignty over the strip.

The foreign minister has now left Madrid for Washington.

Peres Comments on Talks With Soviets, U.S. Visit
TA1205053088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in New York last night. He began his week-long visit by addressing a forum of the American Jewish Congress.

In the course of his visit Mr Peres will confer with President Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, and leaders of the various congressional committees dealing with foreign relations.

An attempt will also be made to arrange meetings for him with presidential candidates. Shim'on Schiffer filed this report on the issues Minister Peres will deal with and the background for his U.S. visit.

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived in the United States during one of the lowest points of the incumbent administration, which is steadily approaching the end of its term.

Thanks to the help of their former aides, President Reagan and his wife have become a standing joke. Even the most significant foreign policy achievement scored by the Reagan administration, the signing of the nuclear nonproliferation accord with the Soviet Union, has been challenged by the Senate which has refused to ratify the agreement.

The administration's effort to oust Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega has also failed. What about the Middle East? Seven years too late the administration has produced an initiative which has already become identified with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Now it transpires that this plan can never mature. Against this backdrop, what are Mr Peres' expectations from his interlocutors?

[Peres] To clear the road of any impediments to peace. Consequently, as long as this administration is in power, and as long as it is ready to harness itself to the task, even if this is characterized by a certain measure of weakness stemming from the fact that it is nearing the end of its term, we should take advantage. Even things that at first glance may appear to be insurmountable can be overcome with a little effort.

[Schiffer] On the other end of the political spectrum is the Soviet Union. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is currently in Geneva trying to reach an agreement with his Soviet counterpart on nuclear arms nonproliferation and verification of the pertinent accords.

All the other issues have only been touched upon lightly. Over the past few days, Mr Peres conferred with several Soviet officials in Madrid. I asked him: Will we witness a normalization of relations with the Soviet Union?

[Peres] I am not too well versed with the decision-making process in Moscow. There is no doubt in my mind, from everything I have heard, that Gorbachev's attitude is serious and constructive not only with regard to the Middle East.

Furthermore, I believe that the differences of opinion between the Soviet Union and the United States on the international conference can be bridged, provided there is a resolution to accomplish this.

The problem is that we do not know whether or not such a decision will indeed be made. If it is made, it will certainly be possible to attain this goal.

[Schiffer] As for Israel, there has been talk about the issue of reciprocity. At the moment, a Soviet consular delegation is visiting in Israel. In your talks with the Soviets, did you mention this business of reciprocity and ask them to permit an Israeli delegation to also visit Moscow?

[Peres] Certainly, although I did not use the term reciprocity because the Soviets believe they are superior to us. I have no claim of supremacy. I will gladly continue to assume our modesty and so forth.

Nonetheless, I did mention the issue of the delegation, and the reply I got was that the Soviets have decided in favor of allowing the visit and there has been no repeal of that decision. We will be informed of the date in the next few days.

[Schiffer] The foreign minister also devoted time to meetings with the Jewish community. During his previous visits some jarring notes could be heard. The discord was primarily due to the feeling that prevailed among U.S. Jews that he was trying to export the internal dispute to the external world, particularly on the issue of the international conference.

[Peres] I do not want to appear like a traveling salesman trying to hawk the international conference to the U.S. Jews. This is not my job If asked, I will explain the issue.

But I will also add that the decision on the matter will be made in Israel. Still, I believe that everyone understands that the danger in halting the peace process is serious and great, and that the only feasible option seems to be launching direct negotiations, which could be done by such a conference which would provide the opening.

I also believe that those who object to the international conference are beginning to realize what the prospects of peace would be should Jordan be removed from the picture. Would the scenario be more pleasant for Israel if it were to face only the PLO?

The international conference is, in essence, an attempt to keep Jordan in the picture. I believe it is still the most serious element with which reaching some peace process may be possible.

[Schiffer] The last topic, of which Mr Peres is fond, and which Mr Shamir also likes, will be the collection of money for the political warchest. As the Knesset elections approach it becomes evident that the coffers must be filled.

In this regard I have also heard that some donors have decided to deal with the financial issue alone, without interfering in the internal debate in Israel. A famous millionaire from Los Angeles told me a while ago:

I donate to both equally. Whatever Shamir got from me, I will give the same to Peres. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 12 May reports on Peres' meeting with correspondents after addressing the American Jewish Conference in New York as follows:

"The foreign minister's message to the American Jewish Conference was that the peace process must continue, not only for Israel's sake, but for the Arabs sake as well. A compromise can be reached, says Peres, if each side understands the needs of the other. But he said his message yesterday to the Egyptian delegation at the Socialist International in Madrid was: While the Palestinians have their national desires, Israel has real security needs." Peres says that self-defense in Israel "precedes, in my judgment, the desire of self-determination" by the Palestinian Arabs. On his talks with former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, Peres says: "We covered quite a lot of ground and our bilateral relations—the Taba issue, the peace process—and it was a very friendly and constructive talk." Regarding his meetings with the Soviets in Geneva, "Peres said he asked them to be more forthcoming and generous regarding the peace process, saying the Soviets must select the role they're going to play in the Middle East."]

Rabin Terms Nicosia Bombing 'Isolated Incident'

TA1205111688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 May 88 p 3

[Report by Dani Kipper]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday he does not believe that the incident in Nicosia signals the beginning of a new wave of attacks against Israel.

Talking to correspondents after addressing the B'nai B'rith International Board of Governors in Jerusalem, Rabin said: "I believe that this is an isolated incident and not part of a chain of terrorist acts."

"Terrorism has become part of our lives, but it will never achieve its political aim," Rabin added.

"This is yet another terrorist action aimed at harassing and threatening Israel just like all those which have accompanied the 40 years of the State of Israel's existence."

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 12 May on pages 1 and 2 reports: "A senior official believes that in the near future a wave of attacks against Israeli targets abroad could be expected. Three terrorist organizations could participate in such activity: Fatah, Abu Nidal's organization, and the Hizballah. All three groups have the organizational and operational capability to carry out these actions."]

Rabin Supports Deportation of Mubarak 'Awwad

TA1205103088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 May 88 p 2

[Text] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin insisted yesterday that Israel was acting fairly in seeking to deport Mubarak 'Awwad.

Speaking to the members of the B'nai B'rith International Board of Governors, which has convened this week in Jerusalem, he said: "Try to imagine what would happen if an Israeli citizen came to the U.S. and stayed there to preach to the Hispanics in New York and California after his visa had expired.

"Let's say this Israeli would say to them: 'You are deprived of basic rights, so you should not pay your taxes or obey the laws of the land.' Can you imagine what the U.S. Government would do in such a case? Would this Israeli be allowed to stay there, even if his visa had expired?

"This is apart from the question of whether 'Awwad has advocated violence, which I believe he has," Rabin added.

'Terrorist' Bases by Security Zone Not Tolerated

TA1205043288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel cannot tolerate the existence of terrorist bases near the security zone in southern Lebanon. He was talking to soldiers who took part in the Israeli Army operation at Maydun, and praised them for their fighting qualities and the way their stuck to their guns.

2 'Terrorist' Squads Uncovered in Gaza Strip

TA1205144088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] A Fatah terrorist squad planning to attack soldiers and civilians with hand grenades has been uncovered in Gaza. While interrogating the squad members, a cache of weapons, including Soviet-made hand grenades, was discovered.

Another squad, consisting of five inhabitants of Dayr al-Balah in the southern Gaza Strip, was also discovered. Its members are suspected of throwing a Molotov cocktail about 2 weeks ago at a car belonging to Qatif Bloc residents. Two of the suspects were caught after this terrorist act, leading to the capture of the entire squad.

'Leftist' Media Blamed for 'Image Problems'

TA1205102288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 May 88 p 2

[Report by Charles Hoffman]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shamir said last night that the leftist tendencies of the international media are partly to blame for Israel's image problems abroad.

Shamir spoke to the international board of governors of B'nai B'rith, which meets this week in Jerusalem to mark Israel's 40th anniversary.

He said that "Arabs and extremists have a better understanding and linkage with media people, who are inclined to see international events from a leftist viewpoint. They get information and indoctrination from the Arabs of East Jerusalem, and trust them more than they trust us." [passage omitted]

PRC Willing To Sell Coal Via Marketing Companies

TA1205143488 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 May 88 p 3

[Report by Tal Yaniv]

[Text] The PRC is interested in selling coal to Israel through marketing companies rather than directly. This was revealed by Ram Ron, departing director general of the National Coal Company.

Ron said Israel insists on direct commercial ties, and noted that there might be direct sales within 1 or 2 years.

Japanese Foreign Minister To Visit in June

TA1105045788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The Japanese foreign minister will visit Israel next month. He will also visit neighboring Arab states. The minister will be the highest ranking Japanese official to visit Israel.

Last year, the Japanese deputy foreign minister held talks with Israeli officials in Jerusalem.

Shamir Optimistic of 'Early' End to Unrest

TA1205103888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir toured the Hebron area today and expressed optimism about an early end to the uprising in the territories. Shamir was speaking to foreign journalists accompanying him on his tour.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I know the situation here. I think that the situation is getting better and improving. I have the impression that more and more people in this area understand that violence is not the way that could

lead them to anything positive, and they understand that any improvement in the situation could bring nearer the peace to all the population and all the people in this area.

[Unidentified correspondent] What hope can you give the people here for some kind of solution?

[Shamir] Well, they have to understand, and I think that more and more they understand, that if there will be restored order, peace will come sooner.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, the fact that you came here accompanied by the deputy defense minister whose name is associated, rightly or wrongly, with the program of transferring the local population across the river, how do you think this will be interpreted here?

[Shamir] Transfer is not accepted by any one of us.

[Correspondent] How do you expect the Arab population of Hebron to interpret the fact that he was with you?

[Shamir] They are very intelligent people and they know the positions of the Israeli Government and of the main Israeli parties. [end recording]

1 AL-'AWDAH, 3 AL-FAJR Editors Detained

TA1105172788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Last night security forces made a series of arrests in Judaea and East Jerusalem. Among those detained were four journalists, three of whom work on AL-FAJR's staff, and one on AL-'AWDAH's, which was closed down 2 weeks ago.

Our correspondents report that there are currently 10 administrative detainees. The detention periods of some have already been extended by 2 weeks.

Court Bans Detainee Deportation Pending Hearing

TA1105175388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The High Court of Justice today issued an interim injunction banning the deportation of Muslim Daghir Shirbahi until there has been a hearing on his appeal. Mikha'el Birenhack reports from Jerusalem:

The request of Shirbahi's attorneys to release him from detention will be heard only next week. Shirbahi is a 50-year old resident of Jerusalem who is being detained in the Ramla prison.

His tourist visa [as heard] expired about a year ago, which is the reason for his arrest and possible deportation. So far, however, no deportation order has been issued against him.

Shirbahi claims in his appeal that the Shin Bet had been pressuring him to collaborate, but he refused several times. Before the hearing started this morning, Nili Arad, director of the department in the State Attorney's Office dealing with matters concerning the High Court of Justice, announced that she does not object to an interim injunction and that she would soon make public the details in her possession. Justices Shamgar, Alon, and Halima accepted her announcement and issued the interim injunction.

Unrest, Related Events in Territories Reported

Curfew Lifted on Jabalyah

TA1105060988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Security forces lifted the curfew imposed six days ago on the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that the curfew on the Al-Shati' refugee camp continues.

More on 10, 11 May Incidents

TA1105121188 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 May 88 p 4

[Report by 'Ezra Aviran, Shlomo Slutzky, Pinhas 'Inbari, Shlomo Glaser, ITIM, and AFP]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Six youths, perhaps more, were injured in clashes with IDF soldiers in the West Bank yesterday. Four were hurt in Al-Tall and two others in Burqin, which is in the Tulkarm District.

A general commercial strike was launched throughout the West Bank yesterday. There was a marked drop in the number of employees leaving Nabulus, Ramallah, and Bethlehem for work in Israel. Still, their numbers were higher than on Monday.

Transportation in Judaea and Samaria was normal except for in Ramallah and Tulkarm, where public transportation is idle. The Ramallah municipal council remained closed yesterday. The curfew imposed on Monday night on the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp following disturbances continued yesterday as well.

Early this morning, the IDF imposed a curfew on the Al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza and lifted the curfew over Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. The curfew in Jabalyah remains in force.

Two masked youths threw rocks at a bus transporting laborers to a Jewish National Fund site on the road between the villages of Sandalah and 'Arbunah on the Gilboa'.

The bus driver, who noticed a road barrier, halted to remove it, at which point the stones were thrown at the vehicle, smashing the front windshield. The youths escaped and the police have launched a search.

Jerusalem Police Reinforced

TA1105180888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Starting tomorrow, until the beginning of next week, some 3,000 policemen will be deployed in Jerusalem due to Jerusalem Day and the end of Ramadan. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that tens of thousands of Muslim worshippers are expected to attend the Temple Mount rituals tomorrow night, and information has been received that instigators are calling for riots following the prayers.

It has been decided to ban organized Arab groups from entering Jerusalem. The Temple Mount will be closed to nonworshippers from tomorrow until the end of the Ramadan fast.

Issuing of ID Cards Continues

TA1205071788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] The security forces imposed a curfew on the Gaza neighborhood of Shaja'iyah this morning. The Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip is also under curfew this morning. Workers from the Gaza Strip left for work in Israel this morning, and the area is relatively quiet.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the process of issuing new ID cards is continuing.

IDF Controls Shop Openings

TA1205130588 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 May 88 p 1

[ITIM]

[Text] Yesterday morning, the IDF closed shops in the West Bank that had opened according to instructions in leaflets. The decision was made following the commercial strike on Monday and Tuesday.

The IDF will close shops that open this morning. This is part of the policy of not permitting shops to open during the morning hours as specified in the pamphlets.

3 Wounded in Nabulus Riot

TA1205141688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Three people were wounded during disturbances in the Nabulus casbah at noon today. An initial investigation indicates that the IDF slightly wounded the three while dispersing a riot with gunfire. This report was filed by our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat.

Palestinians Say 249 Killed

TA1105152388 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 11 May 88 p 5

[Text] On Sunday, 8 May, the IDF spokesman reported 187 dead since the beginning of the uprising in the occupied territories, according to the following breakdown:
— 149 killed by IDF gunfire.
— 21 killed in unclear circumstances.
— 17 whose death is still being investigated.

On the other hand, Palestinian sources say 249 Palestinians have been killed, according to the following breakdown:
— 172 killed by IDF gunfire.
— 48 dead as a result of inhaling poisonous gases.
— 14 killed by beatings and electrocutions.
— 15 killed in unclear circumstances.

On Monday there was an additional fatality in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp.

Laborers Reporting to Work

TA1105144788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The number of laborers from the territories reporting to work in Israel is steadily increasing and has now reached 77 percent, compared with 56 percent at the beginning of the unrest. Some 90 percent of agricultural workers have been reporting to work.

Soldier Sentenced for 'Denouncing Occupation'

TA1105152088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The Southern Command military court today sentenced 33-year-old reservist Adam Keller to 9 months in prison, including 6 months suspended sentence, and a 200 shekel fine. He pleaded guilty to disobedience and propaganda detrimental to army discipline, and contrary to military law.

Our correspondent in the south 'Ezra Yanuv reports that Keller was charged with painting slogans denouncing the occupation of the territories on 117 tanks, armored personnel carriers, and other military vehicles.

Arab Farmers Complain of Increased Restrictions

TA1205133588 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 2 May 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] West Bank agricultural administration heads have complained about regulations imposed on several parts of Judaea and Samaria that restrict farmers' exports to Jordan.

In response, Civilian Administration officials have said that the restrictions were imposed as punitive measures designed to exert pressure on areas defined as being "prone to problems."

Heads of agricultural export administrations have said that in addition to these restrictions, the farmers are also obliged to obtain a series of documents from various administration branches (documents regarding the deferral of income tax debts, value added tax, and water and electricity bill payments to local councils) as a condition for export licenses to Jordan. Despite these restrictions, however, several dozen trucks left yesterday for Jordan, loaded with watermelons from Arab farmers' fields in the Jordan Valley. The farmers have said that this year's watermelon crop is considered exceptionally good, and that their price in the Jordanian market is relatively low. According to them, the Civilian Administration this year has imposed particularly harsh restrictions on watermelon exports from the territories to Israel, which leaves the farmers with a considerable surplus of fruit on their hands. [passage omitted]

Judge on IDF Legal System in Territories

TA1205164388 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 11 May 88 p 8

[Interview with Brigadier General Amnon Strasznoff, military judge advocate, by Sharona Aharon; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Aharon] There have been contentions that the IDF has not been observing all the Geneva Convention articles.

[Strassnoff] The IDF and the defense establishment are very careful to observe the Geneva Convention as well as all aspects of international law. There are rare cases where our internal regulations differ from the Geneva Convention.

In such cases our laws prevail. One of these areas involves deportations. In a recent decision the High Court of Justice ruled that Article 49 of the Geneva Convention does not forbid the expulsion of individual law breakers, violators of public order, or instigators.

Furthermore, the judges ruled that the internal laws applying to the territories overrule the Geneva Convention when deportations are carried out in accordance with defense regulations.

[Aharon] Regarding administrative detentions, how can a detainee be interned for 3 to 6 months without being brought before a judge?

[Strassnoff] First, let me emphasize that the legal basis for this edict is Article 75 of the Fourth Geneva Convention as well as the 1945 defense regulations. Second, we try to use administrative detentions as infrequently as possible.

If there is sound evidence, admission, or legally admissible proof, there is no problem bringing the defendant before a judge. In cases where the testimony is inadmissible in court—for example, when it is based on an informer's tips or similar situations—then and only then do we employ administrative detention without a warrant from a judge.

Before the military commander issues the decree, legal advisers review the matter carefully to determine whether there is sufficient evidence. If they do not think there is, the suspect cannot be tried or placed under administrative detention.

After an administrative detention order is issued, the detainee has the right to appeal to a committee or to the High Court of Justice. This shows that there are ample guarantees preserving the rights of the inhabitants of the territories.

The number of appeals submitted to the High Court of Justice has been very low. I believe that this fact alone, namely, that we have not been subjected to fiercer legal attacks, speaks for itself.

[Aharon] How many detainees are there in the territories now, and how many indictments have been filed so far?

[Strassnoff] Right now there are approximately 5,000 detainees in the territories, 1,700 of them are under administrative detention. Charges have been filed against nearly 2,500 of them for violating public order. More than half have already been tried, and more than 1,000 are still awaiting the end of their trials.

[Aharon] Were there any acquittals?

[Strassnoff] Certainly. In 20 to 30 cases, the defendants were found not guilty due to insufficient evidence or because their guilt was not proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

[Aharon] How many soldiers have been brought to trial for irregular activity in the territories?

[Strassnoff] About 10, including cases of unjustified shooting.

[Aharon] Do you sometimes find yourself faced with a dilemma regarding this job and its implications, particularly now?

[Strassnoff] Definitely. After all, even the military judge advocate is a human being with opinions and preferences. I differentiate between my philosophy and professional considerations.

We are all professionals who must provide legal opinions. I was once asked how I feel about the 1,700 administrative detainees who are held for 3 to 6 months without a trial.

I do not feel good about it, nor do the defense minister and chief of staff. Yet because of the times we live in, this necessity cannot be condemned. It is my duty to provide the best advice I can to meet the establishment's needs, provided this is done within the framework of the law.

IDF Officer Corps Younger; More Women Recruited

TA1205135288 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 May 88 p 2

[Report by Dani Sade]

[Text] Figures issued by the IDF's Manpower Branch summing up the year ending March 1988 shows that the Army has become younger.

In 1976, for example, 4 percent of IDF officers were over 45, compared to only 1.5 percent last year. IDF officers between 26 and 35 years old, some 37 percent of the total, make up the largest group, while junior officers up to the age of 25 make up 30 percent of all IDF officers.

It should be pointed out that in 1976 those between ages 26 and 35 made up more than 50 percent of IDF officers, while junior officers (up to the age of 25) were only 24 percent of the Army officer class. The main reasons for the Army becoming younger is high turnover and resignations.

The figures show that there is a significant increase in the number of females joining the Army. This will force the IDF to permit females to take over additional tasks, thereby enabling male soldiers to be freed for combat duties.

In the coming year, the IDF will recruit hundreds or more soldiers to the Border Police, mainly because of the unit's increased responsibilities.

Treasury Rejects Defense Budget Supplement

TA1205144788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 May 88 p 22

[Report by Tal Yaniv]

[Text] The Treasury does not intend to grant the Defense Ministry's request, based on increased activities in the territories, to supplement its defense budget by 263 million shekels.

Having looked into the request, Treasury officials reached the conclusion that the defense establishment, through cuts in other IDF and defense administration activities, can absorb the additional expenditure from its budget.

Treasury officials do not believe the defense establishment will be convinced by these arguments. Foreseeing a dispute, they think the problem will be resolved in the Cabinet plenum.

3 No-Confidence Motions Rejected 11 May

TA1105190288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpts] If the prices of subsidized foodstuffs had not been raised there would have been a deficit in the state budget, Finance Minister Moshe Nisim said today in the Knesset debate on the no-confidence motion submitted by HADASH following the price increases. The motion was rejected by the coalition majority. [passage omitted]

Today Knesset members of the religious parties forming part of the coalition voted in favor of two no-confidence motions concerning the agreement for the operation of a Mormon university in Jerusalem.

Agudat Yisra'el and Knesset Member Avraham Verdiger of Morasha submitted the motions. The motions were supported by the National Religious Party, Agudat Yisra'el, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], all members of the coalition. The motions were rejected by the majority of the Alignment and the Likud.

Editorial Views U.S. Security Council Veto

JN1205064888 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Reading Through U.S. Veto"]

[Text] The United States' veto of the U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's attack into south Lebanon last week should be required reading for American graduate students in the psychology of official double standards.

The U.S. vetoed the resolution because, in the words of its U.N. ambassador, "it does not acknowledge the well known fact that hostile acts against Israel are originating in Lebanon," adding that "all those who provide funds and arms to militias and other groups that operate in southern Lebanon, while denying the authority of the central Lebanese government, must share the responsibility for the continued instability in the area."

The United States cannot expect to be taken seriously in the region if the premise of its policy is that Israeli security is the top priority of regional power arrangements, while all other considerations of Arab rights should be viewed in relation to Israel's security needs.

Hostile acts against Israel originate in south Lebanon because for the past 40 years hostile acts against the Palestinians and their national rights have originated in the minds of Zionists and the cheap mercantilism of American politicians.

If the Americans are so concerned about the origins of hostile acts, they would do well to recall that they voted for a Palestinian state in 1947, but now steadfastly refuse to accept the Palestinian right to self-determination and statehood.

The problem is not the origin of violence against Israel, it is the origin of violence against both Palestinians and Jews, and it will only be resolved by satisfying the national rights of both.

The United States is the last party on earth that should talk about providing funds and arms to groups that engage in acts that foster regional instability, given its record of astounding financial and military support for Israel.

If the United States feels that the Israelis have greater rights than the Palestinians, it should have the courage to come out and say so, and accept the consequences. We are offended by American government statements that try to make believe that all is well in the Middle East except for some violent Arabs who go around harassing Israel's northern border.

To isolate an incident and ignore the broader context of political denial and human suffering from which it stems is the act of a child, or a fool, or a crass, cold, malicious political operator who values short-term gain over more meaningful criteria of national morality.

AL-RA'Y Denounces U.S. 'Warning' to PLO

JN1205110388 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 May 88 p 17

["An Arab Opinion" by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "A New U.S. Escalation"]

[Text] The official U.S. warning to the PLO against carrying out any operations against U.S. interests in retaliation for the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] brings the continuous U.S. campaign against the PLO back into the limelight.

This campaign began with Kissinger's famous commitment and was followed by the closure of the PLO Information Office in Washington and the attempt to close the PLO UN office in New York.

It ended up with a new stage in the campaign to intimidate the PLO, distort its image, and place it and the Palestinian people under the continuous threat of hostile Israeli plans.

It is known that the PLO has directly accused Israeli intelligence of assassinating Abu Jihad. More than one Israeli official hinted in an almost explicit manner that Tel Aviv was directly responsible for the crime.

The fact that Washington was included in the accusation was prompted by the close cooperation between Tel Aviv and Washington in all domains, and was not based on specific material evidence, although several Western reports indicated that tangible U.S. aid was extended to the Israelis for the perpetration of the crime.

Whatever the case is, the Arab and Palestinian side believes that it is in a state of war with Tel Aviv, and not with Washington. It is the Israeli entity which is the direct enemy of the Arabs, while Washington is practicing a policy that is hostile to the Arabs, who find themselves in a continuous state of legitimate defense against the U.S. schemes.

Nobody, including the Palestinian side, is declaring a war or threatening war against Washington, except in the case of self-defense. The PLO once helped evacuate U.S. nationals from Beirut during the invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982. The Arab parties, including the PLO, also object to the kidnapping of U.S. citizens.

Hence, the recent U.S. threat is meaningless and unjustified. It is only an attempt to terrorize the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative. Following Tel Aviv's assassination of Abu Jihad and other Palestinian

leaders outside the occupied territories, Washington thinks the opportunity is propitious to declare war on the entire PLO as a national institution and a representational body.

What is strange is that this declaration of war coincides with reports on Shultz' imminent return to the region to resume his peaceful efforts.

The whole world, except Washington and Tel Aviv, agree that there can be no solution to the Middle East conflict without securing the Palestinian rights and the PLO's participation in the international conference.

While turning its back on international unanimity and the realities of the conflict in the region, the U.S. Administration continues what it terms its peaceful efforts.

In fact, it is acting in a manner that inflames the elements and causes of the conflict and opens the door for new catastrophes, all to further Israeli hostile ambitions and plans and satisfy its own desire to impose its hegemony on the region by Israeli proxy.

Once again, and for the thousandth time, the U.S. Administration succeeds, by means of this policy, in kindling the feelings of hostility and indignation in the large Arab homeland against it. So, congratulations.

Paper Discusses Trade Agreement With Iraq

JN1205072088 Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 12-25 May 88 p 7

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] A special committee from the Chamber of Industry's Board of Directors met last Monday to study the results of the classification of the products exported to Iraq and those products that have opened letters of credit (LC's), but not financially.

According to trade protocols signed between Jordan and Iraq, Iraq imports Jordanian manufactures up to a ceiling of $185 million. "This is an amount allocated for Jordanian manufactured goods only. Actually, the value of goods exported amounted to twice the quota allocated and thus a crisis occurred," Haj 'Ali al-Dujani, Chamber of Industry adviser pointed out.

A large part of these exports consisted of non-Jordanian products, a move that is considered against the law.

Sources close to the Chamber of Commerce told THE STAR that there was a loophole somewhere from which someone jumped into the field of irregularities. When asked for further clarification, the sources disclosed that they were aware of the role played by former members of the Chamber of Industry who have actually "played this game and created this crisis."

Dr Fahd al-Fanik, a well-known Jordanian economist explained that the trade protocol between Jordan and Iraq covers $900 million both ways, including services and coverages.

The share of commodities in Jordanian exports for 1988 is $185 million, but the Iraqi side, both the public and private sectors, opened letters of credit in favour of Jordanian exporters to the extent of about $500 million, i.e. almost three times the agreed amounts.

When the CBJ [Central Bank of Jordan] was flooded with requests for exports financing, it became aware of the problem. "The Jordanian side is held responsible in that they were not aware there was a problem early enough," said Dr al-Fanik.

He added though that responsibility is shared equally between the CBJ that should have followed up the flow of LC's, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry which should have supervised the whole activity. "Yet both parties became aware of the problem after it was too late," he said.

But Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Muhammad al-Saqqaf disagrees that the Jordanian government should be held responsible. "From the government's side, there is no problem. The problem that was created, if there is one, is the responsibility of the Iraqi importers and the Jordanian exporters. The Jordanian government was not informed about their actions," Al-Saqqaf said.

He said that near the end of last year 1987, and as a result of some managerial arrangements in Iraq which included permitting the Iraqi private sector to import directly from Jordanian manufacturers, the Iraqi importers contacted Jordanian exporters directly.

He added that they opened LC's through the Rafidain Bank to import large amounts of Jordanian and non-Jordanian products, hinting that their action was either due to their ignorance of the ceiling allocated in the Jordanian-Iraqi trade protocol, or due to the fact that they wanted to acquire profits from the agreement.

Al-Saqqaf, who held talks with the Iraqis in Baghdad, said they promised to solve the problem soonest.

Yet, there are over 16-17 thousand LC's which are being classified and assessed.

"We have decided to delay taking any actions or measures until the process of LC classification is completed," he said.

He added that there is no possibility of withdrawing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries. "Cooperation between Iraq and Jordan is fundamental and both sides are organizing the process of co-operation," he added.

Economic sources blamed the Iraqis for the lack of proper supervision on their part, and bad monitoring by the Iraqi Central Bank and Ministry of Trade.

"We are not going to press further on this issue with Iraq because we know they are in a bad situation fighting a long war." The sources added that in its present ruined economic conditions, the Iraqis are willing to import anything.

On the other hand, "there are some Jordanian exporters who took advantage of the situation to make personal profits, thus affecting the whole Jordanian economy by their irresponsible actions," the sources said.

Mr Salih [not further identified] said that Jordanian manufactures with high value added will not be affected, while exporters of Jordanian products that have no added value will be negatively affected by the crisis.

"This whole process will not be repeated, we are sure of this," maintained Haj al-Dajani. Yet, other sources said it is difficult to control such operations especially that the issuing of LC's is not monitored by any particular party.

Dr al-Fanik pointed out though that in future, letters of credit will be easier to monitor, especially as the Rafidain Bank will be reporting it. The Iraqi authorities too, have issued instructions to the Rafidain Bank to refuse to accept export documents and guarantees, he added.

According to Dr al-Fanik, the best solution is that Iraq will honour the LC's outside the protocol i.e., paying them in free currencies since the products are needed by Iraq and it will have to purchase them from somewhere else anyway.

Dr al-Fanik also suggested that contacts between the Jordanian and Iraqi governments will result in finding solutions such as amending the protocol or spreading the whole amount over two years during which the Jordanian exporters would finance their exports.

Other suggestions included the cancellation of the export orders, but Al-Saqqaf refused this because some of the Jordanian industries have commitments, particularly as they import raw materials. "This is where the problem lies, and we try to solve it to foresake an industrial crisis."

According to Haj al-Dajani, all LC's and documents are now being analyzed in order to separate the genuine Jordanian origin products from the irregular. Industry and Trade Minister Haadi al-Tabba' said they will arrange to pay for industrialists who have exported Jordanian origin manufactures whose added value is not less than 40 percent of the total cost.

As for the non-Jordanian goods, those which were not actually exported will be held. "Those exporters who played the game and exported non-Jordanian goods will have to pay for their own mistakes," sources told THE STAR.

Fighting Between Hizballah, Amal Continues

250 Hizballah Arrested

TA1105092888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] There is great tension between Amal and Hizballah in southern Lebanon as well. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Amal supporters have arrested some 250 Hizballah members in villages in the Tyre and Nabatiyah areas during the past 24 hours. Amal expelled six senior Hizballah religious leaders from their homes in the South during the night.

Clashes Intermittent

NC1105112388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Intermittent clashes are continuing between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in various parts of the southern suburb. A cease-fire was announced at approximately 0900 this morning.

The fierce clashes which broke out at dawn today had claimed 4 dead and 40 wounded by approximately 1000, according to news agencies. However, security reports indicate that 10 bodies were taken to the American University of Beirut Hospital.

Hizballah official 'Abbas al-Musawi accused Amal of violating one agreement after the other. In a statement today, he said Nabih Birri, the movement's leader, created incidents between Amal and more than one party in the Lebanese arena.

Iranian Seeks Truce Observance

LD1105114588 Tehran IRNA in English 1101 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 11, IRNA — Iranian deputy foreign minister, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, in Lebanon to solve the differences of Amal and Hizballah forces called Wednesday on the warring parties to observe the truce.

Following renewed clashes between the two Lebanese groups Sheykh ol-Eslam met Lebanon's prominent religious leaders 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Shaykh Muhammed Mahdi Shams al-Din and called for the re-formation of the five member committee.

A committee of five members was set up owing to the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to patch up discords.

Shevkh ol-Eslam announced readiness to go to confrontation areas for putting an end to the bloody confrontations between the two Muslim groups.

The clashes which have so far left some 200 dead and 400 wounded started Friday due to Phalangist intrigues on the eve of the international Al-Quds day announced by the leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni as a solidarity day with Palestinians to liberate Al-Quds from the Zionist occupation.

Syria Reportedly To Intervene

NC1105115888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1142 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: We have just received the following: News agency reports a short while ago carried a statement by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon] in which he said:

In view of the failure of attempts to calm the situation, Syria is obliged to agree to intervene in the southern suburb, at the request of those concerned, in order to put an end to the bloody fighting taking place there.

Brig Gen Kan'an described the current situation as similar to that which prevailed in West Beirut when President Hafiz al-Asad agreed to the request of the inhabitants of Beirut that Syria intervene.

Amal Munitions Captured

NC1105145288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] While sporadic clashes continue in the southern suburb, AFP cites a source close to the Syrian Command in Beirut as saying that Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an has sent a report to Damascus on the situation in the southern suburb.

Kan'an affirms in his report that the entry of Syrian forces into the southern suburb is the only solution that will secure an end to the battles there.

AFP also reports that Hizballah is in control of a major part of the suburb. It says that Hizballah fighters are besieging Amal Movement personnel in two sectors: the first is east of Al-Shiyyah and the second is to the southeast of the suburb in part of Hayy al-Karamah.

An AFP correspondent reported he saw Hizballah fighters gaining control of, and taking up positions in, the Amal Movement's posts. He added that they have captured stores of ammunition and heavy arms, including French-made Milan rockets seized in the Burj al-Barajinah area.

Hizballah Winning in Suburb

NC1105170288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpts] According to the latest reports, Hizballah now controls most of the southern suburb and the Higher Shi'ite Council has called for the presence of Syrian forces. For more details, here is John Munayyar.

[Begin recording] Security sources have affirmed that Hizballah managed to take control of the majority of the southern suburb some time ago, but that small pockets of the Amal Movement still remain on the Mu'awwad Street, in Al-Shiyyah and Burj al-Barajinah, that Hizballah men are attempting to remove. This was confirmed by a Hizballah source who contacted the Voice of Lebanon.

Security sources have reported that Hizballah personnel have taken up positions on the traditional contact lines which separate the southern suburb and East Beirut, and that new contact lines at Al-Shiyyah and Al-Ghubayrah have been established.

Information indicates that the personnel manning most of the Amal centers inside the suburb have proclaimed their withdrawal from the Amal cadre, calling themselves the Faithful Resistance, and affirming their coordination with Hizballah.

It was also learned this afternoon that Chief of Syrian Intelligence [in Lebanon] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an has returned to Syria. Before his departure, he urged both Amal and Hizballah to adhere to the cease-fire.

As far as the security committees are concerned, they are still in session in the Amal Movement's operations room. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Meanwhile, the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council has stated that one of the options for restoring peace is to expand the Syrian security plan in West Beirut to include the southern suburb.

The conferees expressed the belief that what had happened in the suburb was not spontaneous, but rather a planned act designed to create a situation that would bypass the Amal Movement and target the Shi'ite Muslims.

The Council added that the continued presence of roadblocks in the suburb threatens more catastrophes and subjects the political fate of the area to danger.

Suburb Casualty Toll Updated

NC1105162388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1525 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] According to initial reports obtained by AFP from five hospitals in Beirut, today's clashes in the suburb between Amal and Hizballah have left 29 people dead and at least 157 others wounded.

This brings the number of dead to 146 and wounded to 568 since the outbreak of the clashes last Friday. The figures do not include the dead who have been buried at battle sites or transferred to villages in the South and Al-Biqa'.

Hizballah Says U.S. To Blame

NC1105201388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] In a statement released this evening, Hizballah said that the brutal attack on the southern suburb is part of a U.S.-inspired aggression that aims to eliminate the actual representatives of the Muslims in Lebanon and to subject Lebanon to U.S. domination.

The statement, which was carried by AFP, notes that this U.S. aggression against the Islamic revolution was staged in several phases. The first was the Amal-Hizballah battles in southern Lebanon early in April, which enabled the Amal Movement to tighten its control of the area. Next, came the Israeli invasion of Maydun on 4 May and, finally, the southern suburb battles.

HIzballah pointed out that these battles took place in the wake of the U.S. initiative to finish off the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, Iraq's attack on and recapture of the Al-Faw Peninsula from Iran, and after the U.S. incited Saudi King Fahd to sever his relations with Iran.

Cease-Fire Agreement Reached

NC1105213488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] A committee composed of representatives of the Syrian and Iranian presidents, Hizballah, and Amal met at the Iranian Embassy tonight. They reached an agreement to cease fire at 2300 tonight, to send observers to the combat lines in the southern suburb at 0400 tomorrow, to evacuate the wounded at 0700, to exchange lists of the names of people held by each party at 1000, and to withdraw all gunmen at 1500.

The committee will meet at 1900 tomorrow to evaluate implementation of these measures. Syria and Iran will oppose any party that violates the agreement.

The committee was formed after a telephone conversation between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i this evening.

'Iranian Flag' Flys in Suburb

NC1205062088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 May 88

[Excerpt] The southern suburb has fallen to Hizballah and the Iranian flag is now flying over the area. The power of the Amal Movement and Minister Nabih Birri has collapsed in the suburb.

Meanwhile, the casualty toll from the 5 days of fighting has reached 152 people killed and 588 wounded, according to the most recent report. The southern suburb has been turned into a Hizballah protectorate; it has become a new ministate within the Lebanese state, receiving direct instructions from Tehran. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Finds 4 Hostages

NC1205074788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Citing security sources, the newspaper AL-DIYAR reports that Hizballah found four hostages at an Amal center which it occupied in Burj al-Barajinah. The hostages are two Libyans, an Iraqi, and an Egyptian.

Cease-Fire Agreement Begins

NC1205075588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] The implementation of the agreement reached last night after a meeting of the quadripartite committee, which includes representatives of the presidents of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran and delegates of the Amal Movement and Hizballah, began at 0400 this morning.

Four committees have been formed including representatives of the Syrian Arab deterrent forces, the Iranian Embassy, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah. These committees will cover the entire southern suburb.

They began their executive duties at 0400 this morning. The cease-fire has been observed, with the exception of some scattered bursts of fire. The committees dealt with these violations immediately.

The implementation of the second provision of the agreement began at 0700 this morning, with the evacuation of the wounded.

Cease-Fire Reportedly Holding

LD1205083888 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 12, IRNA — An Iran-Syria engineered cease-fire established between the two fighting groups of Amal and Hizballah here since 21:00 hours local time Wednesday is reportedly holding.

According to latest reports the cease-fire was reinforced in all areas of fighting and calm is gradually returning to the area.

A six-point formula to end the hostilities between the rival Amal and Hizballah groups was drafted here Wednesday through the joint efforts of Iran and Syria and repeated contacts between the presidents of the two countries. President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria had called for vigorous efforts to end the battles erupted last Friday.

Within this framework a four-man committee made up of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Colonel 'Ali Hamud from Syria and representatives of Amal and Hizballah met at the Iranian Embassy here Wednesday and drafted the formula.

According to the formula observers were to be sent to the embattled areas as of 04:00 hours local time Thursday and the evacuation of the wounded was to begin at 07:00 hours.

The next step would be exchange of POWs by both sides and all armed men were to be collected from the streets starting 03:00 hours Thursday. Iran and Syria would jointly act against those who violate the articles of the new cease-fire agreement.

Another session is scheduled at the Iranian Embassy here Thursday night to follow up ways of solving disputes between the two groups.

Hizballah 'Mopping Up' Amal

NC1205085588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Bursts of machinegun fire were heard in some parts of the southern suburb this morning. According to security sources, Hizballah is mopping up the remaining pockets held by the Amal Movement in the suburb.

President Sees 'No Progress' in Mediation

NC1105150288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] A Lebanese Front source has commented on a meeting between a delegation of the Front and President Amin al-Jumayyil. He said that the president had explained the details of the U.S.-Lebanese-Syrian contacts and affirmed that he is committed to Lebanese principles, which he will not relinquish.

According to the same source, the president believes recent contacts have achieved no progress, nor have Ambassador April Glaspie's recent visits to Syria and Lebanon.

However, the source continued, the president affirmed that the official Lebanese stand calls for continuing the ongoing U.S. mediation efforts.

Shams al-Din Appeals to Warring Parties

NC0905193088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 May 88

[Appeal by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate; praise be to God Almighty; God alone is omnipotent. What has happened over the last few days and is still going on is a crime and a scandal, the full responsibility for which must be borne by those who caused, planned, and carried out these clashes.

They bear the responsibility for this scandalous crime before God Almighty and the people, before the corpse of every innocent man, and before every fighter who sought to kill his adversary, but was killed by him.

They are responsible before every family who has had a member killed or wounded or its property destroyed.

What has happened and is happening arises not from an oppressor or oppressed in the ranks of either party. Rather, both are being unjust to themselves, to everyone in the southern suburb, and to all Muslims in Lebanon.

No party can honestly claim to represent the people. Each party represents only itself, but claims to represent the people by force. We say this from a position of responsibility for every individual in both parties in the context of our great responsibility for the people and the reputation of Islam and Muslims and their supreme interests.

We say this because, as we have repeatedly stated, we stand by the people and view both parties equally. In view of the continuing fighting that threatens more serious developments, we make two urgent demands:

1. We call on the two warring parties to remember the words of Almighty God: Revere God, through whom you demand your mutual (rights), and (revere) the wombs (that bore you); for God ever watches over you. [Koranic verse; parentheses as rendered]

We urge the two parties to stop fighting and not to persist in killing the people in quest of despicable victories, such as the occupation of an office or the arrest of a person, let alone humiliating, wounding, or killing him.

All this is taboo, not acceptable according to any canonical law, morality, or norm. This is even more taboo, objectionable, and immoral during this great month of Ramadan.

It is clearly self-evident that these events are completely inconsistent with the claim of the two parties to be Muslim.

We call on the two warring parties to restore matters to normal and to faithfully and sincerely implement the agreement they have reached. Otherwise, matters will get out of control. [passage omitted]

We reiterate to each party what they already well know and what we have often said to them: No position you maintain toward each other or unilaterally, however great, gives you—as far as we and the public are concerned—the right to unilaterally make general political decisions.

Participation in political decisionmaking must be in cooperation with the general organizational framework of the Shi'ite Muslims in Lebanon. In other words, the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council through its active legislative and executive bodies.

2. We call and appeal to all the people and the public in the suburb, the South, and Al-Biqa' to express openly, through the broadest mass gatherings and with a loud voice, their rejection of the party idols and armed party conflicts.

I call on all the people to do so by staging mammoth sit-ins and mass marches from all sides, to separate the warring parties and put an end to their persistence in fighting and endangering the lives and property of the people, as well as exposing our political future to the gravest dangers. Thanks be to God, the Lord of the universe.

Fighting by Shams al-Din's Guards Denied

NC0905195888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The office of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, has issued a statement denying reports disseminated by some private radio stations.

According to the reports, one of the parties to the conflict in the southern suburb has accused the guards of Shams al-Din's house of participating in the fighting alongside the other warring party.

The statement said that this report is untrue and is intended to jeopardize the position of his eminence and his role as an authority and judge. It is also meant to harm the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council.

The statement adds that the guards have come under sniper fire, but have not fired a single bullet.

SLA Accuses UNIFIL of Aiding 'Terrorists'

TA1105145388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] headquarters is accusing the UNIFIL Irish contingent of helping two wounded terrorists escape from the security zone yesterday. This occurred after two terrorists were wounded and a third was killed while in possession of a variety of weapons.

SLA sources told our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, that this is not the first time the Irish troops have helped terrorists escape from IDF soldiers.

Israeli Helicopters Raid Maydun, 'Ayn al-Tinah

NC1105175188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] In southern Lebanon members of the national resistance have attacked an agent Lahd militia position on Tallat Zumrayya and clashed with the soldiers manning it for 30 minutes.

Two Israeli helicopters have raided Maydun and the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Tinah, and South Lebanese Army forces combed 2 square km north of the Al-Litani River.

2 PSP Members Killed in Upper Al-Matn Clash

NC1105114788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Two PSP members were killed and three others wounded, one seriously, during clashes last night between members of the PSP and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party emergency committee, which is led by 'Isam al-Mahayri. The clashes took place in Qubay', Qurnayil, Kafr Silwan, and Al-Mutayn.

Al-Huss Comments on U.S. Veto of UN Resolution

NC1105084088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Commenting on the U.S. veto of the Lebanese draft resolution at the UN Security Council, Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has said:

In our view, we have gained the backing of the whole world, except for the United States. I do not think the American officials themselves believe that they alone are right and the rest of the world is wrong. What I fear most is that this flagrant bias toward Israel will encourage the Israelis to continue their attacks on our small country and our suffering people.

U.S. officials have justified their unjust decision by saying that the proposed resolution overlooks the fact that acts of violence take place on both sides of the Israeli-Lebanese border.

It is as if these officials are unaware that Israel is present on both sides of Lebanon's southern border through its continued occupation of a part of our country.

We urge U.S. officials, when they speak again about human rights in other countries, to not forget that the human rights of the Lebanese are also being violated by a brutal military force, which their country is providing with money, materiel, and political support.

Blames 'Leaders' for Fighting

NC1105133188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Commenting on the deteriorating situation in the southern suburb resulting from the Hizballah-Amal fighting, Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said:

The pointless fighting that is taking place in the suburb is God's curse on guns and gunmen. I cannot understand how anyone can score a victory in such a senseless war.

I cannot understand how anyone can claim victory over his brother or neighbor. This is an absurd war, a war without a cause, a war for those who have become slaves to their guns. Guns do not differentiate between friend and foe. They are the enemies of all.

Dr al-Huss added: I see every gun as an indictment of the person holding it and every bullet as an indictment of the person firing it. It has been a long time since we had any respect for guns and gunmen. The fighting in the suburb proves that guns despise the gunmen as much as we do.

Al-Huss declared that one can only address an accusing question to the leaders of the combatants: Where do the combatants obtain their bombs, rockets, and shells?

Do they have them at home; do they buy them out of their own pocket? Are the leaders not ultimately responsible for providing the murderers with the means of inflicting death and destruction and victimizing a whole neighborhood?

Al-Huss said: Under the circumstances, one can only blame the leaders for the crimes committed against the people living in the suburb. We call on them to stop the fighting before it is too late.

It is up to them to decide because so far we have not heard any of them claiming that they are no longer in control of their followers.

France Loans Government 250 Million Francs

NC1105132588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpt] Eng Malik Salam, chairman of the Development and Construction Board, returned from Paris yesterday after signing a contract on behalf of Lebanon, according to which France will loan Lebanon 250 million French francs.

The loan is the second part of a French financial aid package to Lebanon. The first loan, also 250 million French francs, was used to finance several development and social programs in Lebanon.

The second will be used to finance airport, transportation, and hospital projects, as well as other work.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ibrahimi Arrives
JN111557 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Damascus—At 1430 today, Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in Damascus on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, the Algerian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Businessman Interviewed on Hostage Dealings
PM1105130188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 May 88 p 5

[Interview with businessman 'Umran Adham by Zaki Musa in Geneva; date not given]

[Excerpts] From a suite in a Geneva hotel which he turned into an operations room and an ever-active office maintaining contacts with various circles after his deportation from Paris for the part he played in the negotiations for the release of the three French hostages, Adham reproachfully said to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT:

"I was not, as claimed by your Paris colleague, the man of secret deals and I have never traded in butter or Mirage spare parts, nor have I tricked Mitterrand or Chirac. Mitterrand is still my friend and he sent a representative to see me off at the airport. My friendship with President al-Asad is above these things you have been talking about, and I am proud of it."

He also said: My attitude to the hijackers and the state supporting them, by which I mean Iran, is well known and I am now certain that my deportation was one of the main preconditions on which the hijackers insisted after I strongly condemned the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah," congratulated Iraq on recapturing Al-Faw, and earlier condemned the riots staged by the Iranian pilgrims in holy Mecca and said that Syria also condemns such acts and supports Saudi Arabia without hesitation.

"Libya did not open an office for me" in Paris and I have never been an employee there at any time in my life, not even for a single day. So Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi did not give me any missions or deals and I did not form an organization opposed to Damascus.

The following is the full text of the interview with Adham:

[Musa] Who was President Mitterrand's representative who saw you off at the airport?

[Adham] There is no need to mention names but he was there. To this day my relations with the president are good. The decision to deport me was an intra-French political move. I supported President Mitterrand and I am paying the price for taking such a stand.

[Musa] Media and political circles describe you as a close personal friend of President al-Asad. How true is that?

[Adham] That is true. I am proud of the president's friendship and he is proud of my friendship. All the statements I made recently, particularly in Damascus directly after my meetings with President al-Asad, were made in that context. I am the only Syrian who has no official duties and holds a diplomatic passport. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Why did the Syrian ambassador in Paris issue a statement saying that you did not speak in any official capacity?

[Adham] The Syrian ambassador did not name me; the press did. The Syrian ambassador informed the French Foreign and Interior Ministries that the situation was very critical and that since 'Umran had strongly attacked the Iranians, his statements might obstruct our negotiations, and so it was better not to attribute these statements to Syria through me.

I said at the time that I was not speaking officially. I asserted at all conferences and meetings that I was a businessman and a friend of the president. I never said I was an official spokesman. [passage omitted]

[Musa] On the question of the hostages, what was the nature of your contacts, and with whom were these contacts made?

[Adham] I had an official letter of assignment from President Mitterrand to contact President al-Asad and I was also the French president's special envoy to Damascus.

[Musa] Do you possess any documents to substantiate that?

[Adham] Of course, and I will send you a copy. [A photocopy of a French "ordre de mission" is published on the same page] And, for your information, that official assignment still stands to this minute.

[Musa] Did you hold direct contacts with the kidnappers?

[Adham] I never claimed I ever contacted the kidnappers. All my contacts were through Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad.

[Musa] You recently told me that you were about to initiate contacts with Shaykh Shams al-Din [Lebanese Shi'ite Higher Islamic Council deputy chairman] and [Amal Movement leader] Nabih Birri, and others in Lebanon. Was that in connection with the same issue?

[Adham] My contacts with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and Nabih Birri are continuing. The last time we spoke was 5 days ago.

[Musa] What were the circumstances leading to the release of the hostages just days before the French elections?

[Adham] I was the first person to announce that they were going to be released and the first to say that a Syrian decision had been made to begin applying pressure on the kidnappers.

After the holy Mecca incidents, I said on behalf of Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad that we supported Saudi Arabia against Iran. Perhaps one of the preconditions made by the Iranians or the kidnappers was a result of this stand, in addition, of course, to my criticism of the Kuwaiti airliner's hijacking.

[Musa] You talk about supporting a state but you are just a businessman and a friend of a president. Is there more to it than that?

[Adham] I said what I said and nobody in Syria denied it. What does that suggest to you?

[Musa] What does it mean?

[Adham] It means that the president approved. Over the past 20 years have you ever heard of anyone speaking in the name of the president without the latter's approval or support for the stands taken in that context? Furthermore, I carry a diplomatic passport, but I am not a diplomat.

[Musa] What about the deal for the release of the French hostages?

[Adham] The French had previously refused to pay the full amount on the grounds that some of it had already been used, but then they gave in and paid up. To be quite honest, I say that President Mitterrand himself refused. [passage omitted]

[Musa] You said some time ago that Syrian Vice President Rif'at al-Asad would return to Damascus soon, but nothing has happened.

[Adham] Regarding Dr Rif'at al-Asad, it is true I did say he would be returning. When I spoke with him he said he would, but this is up to him. I cannot ask him to. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Did you work in Libya?

[Adham] I did not, not even for a single day

[Musa] What about your visits?

[Adham] Yes, I did visit on business because I have been engaged in trade transactions with Libya since 1978. I export to Libya half of its consumption of raw materials.

[Musa] And are you still doing the same work?

[Adham] Yes.

[Musa] What about the Mirage spare parts you used to export?

[Adham] I know nothing about that. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views U.S. Policy, PLO 'Attacks'

JN111249 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] While approaching the end of its constitutional term in office, President Reagan's administration is taking stands on the Middle East crisis and related issues that not merely confirm the constant Israeli policy—which is hostile to the Arabs, to justice, and to all international charters and regulations—but invite ridicule and disapproval.

In its most recent stands, this administration seemed to have tunnel vision, seeing only its anti-Arab interests and the interests of Israel.

The U.S. Administration used its veto to prevent the UN Security Council from issuing a resolution approved by the vast majority of Council members. Indeed, the resolution was passed unanimously, that is, by a majority of 14 votes against 1—the U.S. vote.

This resolution, which was opposed by the United States, condemns the most recent Israeli aggression on Lebanon and the crimes committed by the aggressive Israeli forces against the citizens, including the demolition of the village of Maydun.

Before resorting to the veto on the Lebanon resolution, the United States vetoed a unanimous Security Council resolution condemning Israel's crimes in the occupied Arab territories.

The Israeli aggression on Lebanon is a firm and established fact known by the whole world, acknowledged by the Israeli leaders, and recorded by the UN forces in the south.

Israel's continuing crimes in the occupied Arab territories, specifically in the past 6 months, have become known to world public opinion, provoking anger and denunciation from peoples of the world, as well as prominent Jewish personalities in the United States and other countries.

It is undeniable that Israel is comitting crimes in the occupied territories whose savagery and bestiality are comparable only to Nazi crimes in territories conquered during World War II.

The United States has taken a stand toward the Israeli crimes, which, to say the least, is one of silence over murder, terrorism, and lawbreaking and support for murderers, terrorists, and outlaws.

It is truly ironic that the U.S. Administration has publicly announced through the State Department spokesman that it has held contacts with a number of Middle Eastern countries on the possibility that the PLO might carry out attacks on U.S. citizens and establishments.

The spokesman said that the contacts were a wise response to available information on possible attacks and that the PLO had either known or been informed of this.

The irony is that the U.S. Administration holds contacts to ward off alleged attacks that are not yet conceived. At the same time, the United States supports real crimes perpetrated by Israeli leaders who are linked to the United States in a strategic alliance, which accurately coordinates the overall U.S. interests in the Middle East with Israeli interests in the region.

Comprehensive U.S. interests and special Israeli interests in the region are opposed to peace and security, responsible for the transformation of the Middle East into a hotbed of constant tension and permanent threat of war, and hostile to the Arabs and the Arab national liberation movement in particular and the national liberation movements of the nations in the region in general.

From this U.S.-Israeli enmity toward the the Arabs and their national liberation spring these odd and deplorable stands, which run counter to any logic acceptable to world public opinion and totally contradict the principles, charters, and bases about which the U.S. Government brags in all international meetings and conferences.

From this enmity come U.S. stands, proposals, decisions, and projects that carry glittering titles but back aggression, invasion, and the violation of international laws and resolutions.

When a state loses its honesty and desire to support law and international charters, it moves away from justice. When a state moves away from justice, it becomes biased. When this happens, it becomes unacceptable to one or both sides of the dispute.

When this state becomes unacceptable to one side of the dispute, it automatically becomes a party to the dispute and not a referee, troubleshooter, or mediator.

When Secretary of State George Shultz comes back to the Middle East, as he announced recently, he has to remember that the recent stands of his government on the Middle East conflict cast a shadow of doubt on the earnestness of the United States when talking about peace and a just settlement.

AL-BA'TH Cited on Upcoming Shultz Tour

JN091000 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Path of a Just and Comprehensive Peace," AL-BA'TH says: U.S. diplomacy has recently publicized George Shultz' new regional tour related to the so-called settlement plan, proposals, or whatever.

Whether Shultz' return is near or far away, the issue is no longer related to timing. It is based on the nature of the U.S. move and on the content of any initiative brought by this or that envoy.

So far, in the U.S. ideas we have seen only total adherence to Israel and its interests. The just peace sought by all honest strugglers is not the peace sought by the United States; it is the peace based on components that cannot be ignored or bypassed by anybody.

These are the components our kinfolk in the occupied territory are struggling to entrench on the geographical and political map without allowing any encroachment on Arab rights.

We are not exaggerating if we say that this fact has become as clear as the revolution which is burning under the feet of the Zionist invaders—the revolution that has disproved all accounts related to settlement plans and the illusions of the Zionists, Washington, and its agents. In light of this fact, any move that cannot regain the usurped rights is useless.

The revolution is in its 6th month. This revolution calls for reconsidering these plans and, consequently, for choosing the only road that will lead to a just and comprehensive peace. This road is clear and known and does not require many interpretations.

Briefs

Balance of Trade

Damascus, 10 May (SANA)—An official at the Foreign Trade Ministry said that a surplus of 247 million Syrian pounds was achieved in the balance of trade during March, when exports exceeded imports. It is recalled that the balance of trade during January and February of this year achieved a surplus of about 250 million Syrian pounds. This shows that the implemented economic measures are heading in the right direction and have begun to bear the awaited fruits in supporting the national economy. [Text] [*JN101221 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1147 GMT 10 May 88*]

Afghanistan

Soviet Troops Begin Evacuating Jalalabad 12 May

BK1205100588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0951 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 12 (AFP)—Soviet troops began to pull out of the strategic city of Jalalabad near Kabul Thursday, Afghan resistance sources said.

The sources said that a convoy of nearly 70 Soviet tanks and armoured vehicles left Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province in northeast Afghanistan, for Kabul, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) away.

Jalalabad, which houses a large Soviet-Afghan garrison and a military air base, is considered strategic as it guards the access to the capital as well as power stations which supply electricity to Kabul.

According to the Afghan media resource center (AMRC), which works for the Afghan resistance, 300 empty trucks arrived recently in Jalalabad to evacuate a Soviet brigade which is to be replaced by Afghan troops.

Soviet transport planes also arrived bringing artillery for Afghan troops, the AMRC said, citing eye-witnesses.

The AMRC added that 4,000 Soviet soldiers based in Samar Kheyl, about a dozen kilometers (eight miles) from Jalalabad, were on their way to Jalalabad to be evacuated.

Last week, several military positions held by the Red Army were turned over to Afghan troops last week.

There has been sporadic fighting in the region, particularly along the badly-damaged road that leads from Jalalabad to Towr Kham on the Afghan-Pakistan border.

Afghan resistance sources said a Soviet helicopter was shot down Thursday by the rebels using a surface-to-air missile about 35 kilometers (22 miles) outside Jalalabad.

The four-man military crew of the aircraft were all killed, including one severely-burned crewman who tried to escape the helicopter by parachute, the sources said.

They added that the helicopter was shot down prior to the withdrawal, when Soviet aircraft bombed the area.

Mujahidin 'Rush' To Build Up Arms Stockpiles

BK1105092588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0858 GMT 11 May 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, May 11 (AFP)—Large convoys of arms have been heading for Afghanistan in the past few weeks as the mujahidin rush to build up their reserves before Soviet troops begin pulling out on Sunday, diplomatic sources said here Wednesday.

"There has been a real race against the clock to move almost all the mujahidin's stockpiles of weapons into Afghanistan before May 15," informed sources said.

Pakistan was hoping that the bulk of the arms will have arrived in Afghanistan before the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops begin withdrawing Sunday, as agreed in the April 14 Geneva accord signed by Islamabad and Kabul, diplomatic sources said.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Zain Noorani is expected in Moscow on Sunday for a three-day visit, they noted.

In the past few days, Pakistani and guerrilla trucks loaded with military equipment have been constantly on the move, heading for Afghanistan, informed sources said.

One diplomatic source said the Pakistanis themselves were helping to move the convoys in order to speed up deliveries to the mujahidin.

The arms were now going directly "to mujahidin commanders actually doing the fighting," instead of passing through the hands of the the seven-party resistance alliance based in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan, diplomatic sources said.

The distribution of arms was now more even-handed, they said, with "moderate" guerrilla groups receiving a large quantity of the material. In the past there have been reports that hard-line fundamentalist rebel groups were grabbing most of the weapons.

Besides moving stockpiles from tribal areas along the Afghan-Pakistan border, the mujahidin have also been moving new supplies of arms shipped in to replace those lost in an explosion at the Ojiri weapons depot north of Rawalpindi in early April, diplomatic sources said.

The disaster—which U.S. experts say was probably an accident and not sabotage—destroyed huge quantities of arms destined for the guerrillas and showered the capital and Rawalpindi with a hail of shells, rockets, and missiles. Nearly 100 people died in the blast.

The fresh arms supplies arriving here by air, or by boat in the southern port city of Karachi, have effectively made up the losses, the diplomatic sources said, adding that U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft and Milan anti-tank missiles and "new weapons" had been included in the latest shipments.

Western intelligence sources said that fresh supplies of heavy weapons, such as rockets and large-calibre mortars, were urgent as they would enable the mujahidin to attack Kabul, the best defended city.

Most of the arms convoys have been crossing into Afghanistan through recently liberated zones in north-eastern Konarha Province or along the mujahidin's traditional supply routes, particularly the mountainous Angurada Road from Wana in southern Waziristan.

This paved road, maintained with U.S. aid, runs from Wana in northwest Pakistan into the Afghan province of Ghazni which is largely under mujahidin control.

The Afghan Air Force has intensified bombing along the border with Pakistan in the past few days.

A Western journalist who returned last week from Khowst in Paktia Province, south of Kabul, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE "the mujahidin were virtually bogged down with all the weaponry they were carrying."

7-Party Resistance Alliance Adopts Constitution

OW1105200588 Beijing XINHUA in English 0637 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 11 (XINHUA)—A constitution of the "Islamic State of Afghanistan" has been adopted by the Supreme Council of the Afghan seven-party resistance alliance, an Afghan resistance source said here today.

The constitution, which is composed of four chapters and 87 articles, was approved at a meeting by the supreme council of the alliance yesterday in Peshawar, capital of Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province.

The supreme council decided that the new constitution will be enforced after May 25. It is now being printed in Dari and Pashto, Afghanistan's national languages, and in English.

The four-hour meeting, which was presided over by chairman of the seven-party alliance Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, also decided that the 21-member supreme council will continue to work until an elected council is set up.

The seven-party alliance last February proposed to set up a 28-member cabinet of an interim government in Afghanistan, which includes 14 resistance representatives, seven Afghan refugees seeking shelter on foreign lands and seven Muslims living in Kabul.

The alliance has declared that the interim government, which is to be established inside Afghanistan, will replace the present Kabul regime after the pullout of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Under an agreement signed on April 14 in Geneva by Pakistan and the Moscow-installed Kabul regime, the Soviet Union will begin withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan on May 15.

La'eq Attends Paktia Defense Council Meeting

LD1005230788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] A meeting of the Defense Council of Paktia Province was held yesterday in Gardeyz city. The governor of Paktia presented a report on the situation in the province to the meeting and then Sulayman La'eq, minister of tribal affairs, spoke about the Geneva accords and the realization of the policy of national reconciliation. He also specified the task of providing further facilities for welcoming the returnees in Paktia Province.

According to another report, the minister of tribal affairs also met with the heads of border tribes of Chamkani district, Paktia Province in Gardeyz city today and spoke with them about the Geneva accords and the role of the heads of tribes in realizing these agreements.

Armed Forces Abort 'Extremist' Plot Near Kabul

LD1105213688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The Armed Forces aborted another destructive action by extremist elements in the areas around Kabul today.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that local residents helped security forces to discover and then destroy an inhumane plot by extremists who intended to bombard residential areas of the city of Kabul with surface-to-surface rockets. The rockets were found in the (Destak) and 'Aynak copper mine areas.

During this operation, nine rockets and launching equipment were seized by security forces. The report adds that security forces are continually mounting operations around Kabul.

15 Surface-to-Surface Rockets Captured

LD1105214788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] A fiendish plot by elements linked to the extremists has been aborted. These elements intended to disrupt the peaceful life of our compatriots in Jalalabad by firing surface-to-surface rockets.

According to the BAKHTAR military correspondent, local residents helped the security forces to capture 15 surface-to-surface rockets in Kahan and (Katraghai) villages in (Rodat) District of Nangarhar Province by elements linked to the extremist groups.

Bangladesh

Government To Release 143 Prisoners on 'Id

BK1105160088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The government has decided to release 143 persons from jail on the occasion of the holy 'Id al-Fitr. An official handout issued in Dhaka today says these persons were detained under the Special Powers Act of 1974.

The government expects that the released persons will refrain from criminal and such other activities as (?they are) against the law and order of the country.

Shanti Bahini Kill 3 People, Burn 4 Houses

BK0905160988 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The so-called Shanti Bahini [army of peace] killed three more people at (Watchhari) in Manikchhari Upazilla [subdivision] of Khagrachhari District last night.

Official sources said the armed bandits killed the villagers who were guarding their paddy crops. Four cattleheads were also killed and four houses burned.

India

Pakistani Attack in Siachen Area 'Foiled' 9 May

BK1205013088 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Pakistani troops made an abortive attempt on Monday [9 May] night to encroach on (Bana) Post in the Bilafond area in Siachen. The attack was successfully foiled by alert Indian troops with artillery and small arms fire. Pakistani casualties could not be ascertained due to poor visibility.

It may be recalled that the third round of talks between the defense secretaries of the two countries to resolve the Siachen issue is scheduled to be held in Islamabad on the 19th of this month.

Parliament Briefed on Pakistani Arms Deals

BK1205102688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that Pakistan is acquiring arms and equipment from the United States and China much beyond her legitimate defense needs.

The minister of state for defense, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, told the house that government has information about weapons from Pakistan finding their way to extremist elements in Punjab.

The minister also said that the United States has decided to sell more F-16 fighter aircraft and Sidewinder air-to-air missiles to Pakistan. India has urged the U.S. Government to review its military assistance to Pakistan in the light of the proposed withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, but the United States has reiterated its commitment to the security and economic assistance to Pakistan for the next 5 years.

Further Reportage on Situation in Golden Temple

3 Dead in Latest Fighting

BK1105104088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Amritsar, India, May 11 (AFP)—At least three more people were killed in an intense firefight which erupted at the Golden Temple on the third straight day of clashes Wednesday between Sikh militants and security forces, police said.

Bursts of automatic weapons fire could be heard from the temple complex which has been without power and water since late Tuesday when the security forces cut supplies in a bid to wear down about 100 militants holed up in the complex.

One woman was among the three dead, police said.

Witnesses said they saw at least five bodies inside the temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, including two of people who died Tuesday.

Police could not say if any Sikh separatists were among the three they reported killed Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Sikh militants prevented a team of Red Cross workers from collecting the bodies Wednesday, city officials said.

Seven people died, including a Red Cross worker and a woman, and a top paramilitary force officer was wounded Monday when fighting first broke out as security forces tried to prevent militants from building a bunker behind the temple.

Police said intermittent firing continued overnight developing into a four-hour gunbattle at 4 a.m. local time (2230 GMT).

They said the militants had built two tall brick columns inside the shrine from where they were firing down on security forces ringing the complex.

Some 800 pilgrims, fled to safety during a brief lull in the fighting Tuesday, soon after security forces cut the power and water supplies.

Amritsar city officials on Wednesday decided against relaxing an indefinite curfew clamped on the area surrounding the temple Monday in a bid to halt arms and ammunition reaching the militants, police said.

The Sikh militants were armed with modern U.S.-made carbines and Chinese AK-47 assault rifles. The security forces say their own weapons are no match for those of the terrorists.

The militants have been fighting for five years for a separate homeland in Punjab called Khalistan (Land of the Pure). More than 880 people have died so far this year in Punjab in violence linked to the separatist campaign.

Intermittent Firing Continues

BK1105162088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] In Amritsar intermittent firing is continuing from inside the Golden Temple complex. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, about 60 to 70 militants are still firing on the security forces stationed outside the complex.

He said the militants have switched off the lights inside the Golden Temple. No relaxation in the curfew imposed in the walled city of Amritsar have been given in view of the situation.

The spokesman said the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] chief, Jathedar Jasbir Singh Rhode, and other high priests are presently camping at Santokhsar Gurdwara [Sikh temple] near the city kotwali [police station].

The head priest of the Golden Temple, Giani Pooran Singh, tried to enter the Golden Temple, but had to return after reaching the parikrama [walkway around the Golden Temple].

He said the government has offered to provide armed escorts to the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak (Sikh temple management) Committee] employees and other persons responsible for performing religious duties and to those who desire to go into the Golden Temple.

Making a statement in the Lok Sabha today, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said intermittent firing is continuing from inside the Golden Temple complex today also.

He told the house that unconfirmed reports had put today's death toll inside the complex at three. The minister said militants opened fire from inside the temple on Monday afternoon. The police and paramilitary forces returned the fire.

Intermittent fire continued in which five persons, including a woman, were killed. Indefinite curfew was imposed in the walled city as a precautionary measure.

The home minister also stated that about 750 people came out of the Golden Temple. The process of their screening and release is continuing. Mr Buta Singh reiterated that the government is firm not to allow any fortifications around the Golden Temple complex by the militants.

Any such action will be firmly countered and neutralized. The minister said clear instructions have been given to the paramilitary forces in this regard.

The home minister said the government is committed not to allow misuse of religious places for criminal or antinational activities. A similar statement was made in the Rajya Sabha by the home minister.

Temple Complex Calm 11 May

BK1205033388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this morning that there has been no firing since last evening between the terrorists inside the Golden Temple complex and the security forces outside.

He said strict vigil is, however, being maintained. The indefinite curfew clamped in Amritsar on Monday in the old city areas continues. Supply of essential items including milk is being maintained in the curfew-bound areas.

A team from the Damdami Taksal [Sikh religious seminary] went inside the Golden Temple last evening in a bid to defuse the situation. The spokesman said the team brought out four dead bodies.

Agency reports say the five Sikh head priests have called for the cessation of hostilities. The government has offered to provide armed escorts to the SGPC employees and others responsible for performing religious duties and also to those who wish to go into the Golden Temple.

The director general of Punjab Police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, is camping in Amritsar. The Border Security Force has seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition in an encounter with terrorists near an observation post in the Ajnala sector. The seizure includes several rifles, pistols, and 15 powerful hand grenades.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, reviewed the law and order situation in the state with his cabinet colleagues and senior police officers at a meeting in Chandigarh last evening. Both short- and long-term measures to combat terrorist activities in the state were discussed.

4 Sikh High Priests Arrested

BK1205075688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces near Takapur village in Amritsar District early this morning. According to an official spokesman, the terrorists opened fire at the police patrol party when challenged.

Both the terrorists were killed in the return fire. They have been identified as Bunkar Singh and Kuldeep Singh. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

In Amritsar, 4 Sikh high priests and 26 others were arrested by the police this morning for violation of the curfew orders. According to an official spokesman, they were trying to go to the Golden Temple complex, defying the curfew, when they were arrested.

The district magistrate earlier warned the head priests that it is not safe for them to go to the Golden Temple as terrorists from within the complex indulged in heavy firing on the security forces.

The exchange of fire between the terrorists and the security forces was continuing when the head priests and others wanted to enter the Golden Temple. The high priests arrested are: the Akal Takht chief, Bhai Jasbir Singh Rode; Bhai Savinder Singh, Bhai Kashmir Singh, and Bhai Jaswant Singh.

Paramilitary Troops Ordered to Haryana

BK0905161888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The Center is sending three companies of paramilitary forces to Haryana to assist the state in fighting the terrorist violence. Some modern arms have been supplied and more will be given shortly to meet the threat posed by the sophisticated arms of the terrorists.

This was announced by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, in the Lok Sabha today. The minister was making a statement on the killing of 13 persons in Panipat on Saturday night.

Replying to clarifications sought by members in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidamberam, told the house that according to information from DG [Director General], Haryana police, the police force reached within a few minutes the site of the tragedy. However, it could not be established what was the actual number of the terrorists.

Sri Lankan Minister Meets With Defense Minister

BK1005040488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan minister of land development, Mr Gamini Dissanayake, met the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in New Delhi yesterday.

His meeting with Mr Natwar Singh lasted about an hour. He is scheduled to call on the prime minister today. Mr Dissanayake's talks with Indian leaders are connected with the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement, namely, ways and means to start a political process in the northeast of the country.

Meanwhile, delayed reports from Jaffna Peninsula say at least seven TELO members were killed allegedly by the LTTE over the last weekend.

Minister Clarifies Alleged Arms Deal Charges

BK1005130488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has urged the opposition not to jeopardize the country's defense preparedness by making baseless allegations as far as arms deals are concerned.

Replying to a special discussion on the HTW [Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft] submarine deal in the Lok Sabha today, Mr Pant told the opposition that no amount of smoke or dust is going to obscure the truth.

He asked the opposition to appreciate the fact that the government has not held back any material from the house, both in the case of Bofors gun deal and in the submarine deal.

Reiterating that the government has nothing to hide, the defense minister maintained that from the time the government received the telex message from the Indian ambassador at Bonn it conducted prompt and thorough investigations to find out the truth about the alleged payment of commission in the deal.

Mr Pant said that the then-defense minister had ordered inquiries by the agencies of the Finance Ministry. But when the investigating agencies could not make much headway, the government referred it to the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation].

Later, an interministerial group was also sent to West Germany to examine all those concerned, including the representative of the HTW, Dr (Mollita). Dr (Mollita) is reported to have given first information to the Indian ambassador in Bonn.

The house was informed that Dr (Mollita) had denied having made any statement to the Indian ambassador regarding payment of commission. Mr Pant said that the

HTW company, which is a public sector company of West Germany, made it clear that no commissions were paid to either Indian or non-Indian agent either in India or abroad.

Former Defense Minister Comments on Bofors Deal
BK1105141488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The former minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, today charged Messrs Bofors of Sweden with committing a breach of contract by making payments to some foreign-based firms in the deal for the purchase of 155-mm guns by India. He said the company must be asked to pay this amount and also the damages.

Mr Arun Singh said India must use its clout as a major buyer of defense equipment. If Messrs Bofors do not pay a substantial amount as damages, the company should be blacklisted. He was speaking during the discussion on the Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] report on Bofors contract in the Rajya Sabha today.

Mr Arun Singh said cancellation of the contract will not be in the interest of the country as we have been able to procure a medium gun to match the capability on our borders after a great deal of negotiations.

Mr Arun Singh deplored the allegations being made against the prime minister without a shred of evidence. He said his dignity was hurt as the prime minister was being dragged into the controversy without any basis.

Mr Arun Singh that he did not have the slightest doubt that Bofors will breach the contract after they had put in writing that there will be no agent. He said if he had had doubt, he would have as a minister of state for defense entered a clause in the contract to terminate it in the event of any payment being made by Bofors.

He said he takes accountability for this and pointed out that if he had put this idea to the prime minister, Mr Gandhi would have agreed.

Mr Arun Singh also criticized the JPC for calling officials in the Defense Ministry to give evidence before it and not the minister. He said the JPC had done a great disservice to him by not inviting him to give evidence.

Earlier, initiating the discussion, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, BJP, questioned the very constitution of the JPC and the procedure adopted to examine the evidence. He pointed out that a note of dissent was not allowed and it was taken as a postscript.

Mr Vajpayee said that the committee devoted more time to examine the capability of the gun rather than go into the main issue.

Group Established To Deal With Nuclear Accidents
BK1205081088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] A crisis management group has been set up at the headquarters of the Department of Atomic Energy in Bombay to deal with nuclear accidents. The group will deal with all emergency situations that may arise due to accidents at atomic power plants or any other nuclear installations.

Set up on the recommendations of the Cabinet Secretariat, the group will be responsible for ensuring that each of the nuclear installations is adequately equipped to deal with radiation hazards.

Government Position on Afghanistan Questioned
BK1105100688 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 May 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Diplomatic Cant"]

[Text] The Foreign Secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon has said a lot about his talks in Islamabad which adds up to little. His statement that these talks "established commonalty over the final objective in Afghanistan but it may take time to evolve an Indo-Pak approach to settle the eight-year-old conflict" certainly shows his skill as a word-smith.

He was particularly profound when he confided to newsmen that "during the talks the two sides neither agreed on anything nor were there any differences". No one need suspect that he was only trying to shroud a deadly secret in a verbal smokescreen. It is more likely that New Delhi itself is not quite clear as yet about its objective in Afghanistan.

India wants only peace and stability in Afghanistan, says Mr Menon. That is no great policy statement. No sane country in the world will express any opposition to these noble aims being pursued in Afghanistan.

The truth is that Pakistan and its Afghan ally, that is the Islamic fundamentalist combine led by Mr Hikmatyar, may seek to achieve "peace and stability" in ways different from what New Delhi thinks best.

Mr Menon certainly came near to touching the heart of the matter when he expressed the hope that he dispelled "the notions in Pakistani minds that we are trying to upstage or undercut their objectives."

This is a tacit acknowledgement of a potential conflict of interests between India and Pakistan over Afghanistan.

It is no use slurring over such a possibility. All the available evidence has suggested so far that Pakistan has armed and groomed the Afghan Islamic fundamentalist

combine to take over in Kabul as a means of keeping Afghanistan under its control in the longer run. This is a design. And Pakistan has gone far in preparing the ground for its realisation.

That events will acquire a momentum of their own and Pakistan's plans may not come to be can be small consolation. The point is that, having ruled itself out of court by nine years of silence, the Government today hasn't a foothold from which it may so much as attempt to counter the influence Pakistan has acquired, and it hasn't a clue on how to acquire such a foothold.

All it can do therefore is to gesticulate from the sidelines, try to make believe that it is playing a role in shaping the outcome. The Afghan President, Mr Najibullah, now in imminent danger of losing his Soviet prop, will be sorry to discover during his talks in New Delhi that it certainly cannot provide him with what the Soviet Union has withdrawn.

The leg of the latter was blown off by the mujahidin. The former does not have a leg to stand on.

Iran

Musavi, Cabinet Ministers Discuss Lebanon Issue

LD1205061388 Tehran IRNA in English 0550 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—The cabinet ministers here Wednesday evening in a session chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi discussed latest developments in the country as well as renewed clashes between Amal and Hizballah in Lebanon.

The ministers expressed regret on eruption of these clashes in Beirut and appealed to both sides to observe ceasefire.

Escalation of the battles and their coincidence with the international Al-Quds day (May 13, last Friday of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan) are against Islamic goals and hinder the campaign against the Zionist regime, it was agreed.

Durig the session a report by the Construction Jihad Ministry on its agricultural and irrigation projects in Tanzania was submitted to the cabinet and it was decided that other ministries cooperate with Jihad in implementing the projects.

Prime Minister Musavi Critizes Saudis on Hajj

LD1205125688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Our next report concerns a statement made by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi in an interview with reporters after a meeting of the Cabinet's political council.

According to a Central News Unit report, in this interview the prime minister referred to efforts by the Hijaz regime to prevent Iran from sending pilgrims to the holy shrines, a move based on groundless excuses.

The prime minister noted the price this regime will pay for these efforts to block the path to God. The prime minister then said: Had we spent billions of dollars to expose the dependent and blasphemous face of the house of Al Sa'ud and to neutralize their deceptive ways and this regime's vast investments throughout the world to publicize American-style Islam, we could not have achieved the same degree of success that they themselves have achieved through their repeated insults to the divine sanctuary and sacred ideas of Islam.

The prime minister added: Despite efforts by the house of Al Sa'ud to the contrary, the hajj has now attained a lofty status in Muslims' lives. Therefore, no power can now deny the liberating quality of this tradition of Abraham and Muhammad. These moves clearly detail the steps adopted by this dependent body of rulers.

Mr Musavi added: The fact that the occupying regime of Jerusalem bars Palestinian pilgrims from taking part in the hajj is in itself a clear example of this.

Had hajj recovered its genuine performance, the Zionists would not have embarked on such measures; they would have acted like in previous years. [sentence as heard]

The prime minister stressed: This is a great victory to note that neither the intimidation of the house of Al Sa'ud in suppressing all kinds of hajj ceremonies can impair these ceremonies nor can the propaganda against the participation of Muslims in hajj ceremonies reduce its glittering glory.

The Saudi regime pits itself against Islam, the Koran, and the theological views of all ulema of Islam by such moves.

Khamene'i Message on Eve of Jerusalem Day

LD1105175788 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i in separate messages to heads of all Muslim states today, suggested that they call upon their people to march towards the main site of Friday prayers in their countries on International Jerusalem Day (May 13) to show their support for the resistant Palestinian people.

Khamene'i also urged his counterparts to mobilize their countries' mass media and announce their support for the Palestinian people and other Muslims.

The messages sent on the eve of International Jerusalem Day noted that this year the last Friday of Ramadan is a solemn witness to a new era in the struggle for the liberation of holy Jerusalem.

The Zionist occupiers have aggravated their 40-year aggression by ruthlessly killing or torturing the oppressed inhabitants of the land of revelation and prophecy and are savagely trampling upon the Palestinian Muslims' rightful claims, he added.

The brutal Zionist oppression has jolted the Muslim world's conscience and the uprising is now clamouring for attention from the great Islamic ummah, the messages concluded.

Foreign Ministry Issues Jerusalem Day Statement
LD1205102588 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry in a statement here Thursday urged all countries and Islamic and progressive groups of the world to vigorously campaign against Zionists.

The statement issued on the eve of the International Al-Quds [Jerusalem] Day, May 13, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was fully ready to help the Palestinian movement.

The statement said that this year's International Al-Quds Day has coincided with culmination of the Islamic uprising of the Palestinians in occupied territories which has panicked the Zionist regime and its supporters.

To encounter the Palestinians' uprising the oppressors are seeking ways to impose an ignominous and compromising solution on the oppressed people of Palestine and other Islamic nations. However, despite these efforts the Palestinian revolution has found its genuine course.

The statement said that the oppressor powers and enemies of Islam have pointed their guns against the oppressed and revolutionary Muslims and the usurper Zionists continue to harass the Palestinians and disrespect the Islamic holy places.

The Foreign Ministry appealed to all Islamic countries to respond to the call of the Palestinian people and expressed hope that the holy Al-Quds will be liberated and Islam will regain its glory.

Editorial on Saudis' 'Anti-Islamic' Position
LD1205152188 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 30 April 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Saudis Finally Unmask"]

[Excerpt] Last week the American newspaper WASHINGTON POST quoting American officials reported that the Al Sa'ud has decided to break its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Only hours later, the regime ruling over Hijaz, in an official statement announced the breaking of its relations with Islamic Iran. The fact that this news came from Washington first, clearly shows that the decision announced by the Saudis was a decision made in line with the policies of the Reagan administration and dictated to the rulers of Hijaz.

One of the objectives sought by the U.S. and Israel in imposing this decision on the Saudi family, is to block the Iranian pilgrims' hajj ceremonies this year.

During the past few months Al Sa'ud had tried hard to prevent Iranian pilgrims from participating in this year's hajj and specifically from holding the "antipathy towards pagans" rally again.

The climax of Saudis' efforts was shown in the meeting of the foreign ministers of Islamic Conference countries in Amman, Jordan.

Following the Amman meeting, the Saudis announced that they would permit not more than 50,000 Iranian pilgrims to participate in hajj, and that under no conditions whatsoever would they allow the antipathy towards pagans and enemies of Islam rallies this year. [passage omitted]

The Al Sa'ud family has finally taken off its mask, showing its true anti-Islamic face. And it is the obligation of the world Muslims to wipe out these corrupt and anti-Islam Wahhabi elements from the holiest shrines of Islam.

On the other hand, the Saudi decision to break relations with the Islamic Republic is an indication of the growth of Islamic movements in the region as well as the growing fear of this movement by the U.S. and the region's reactionary regimes.

Never before has the Muslim Iranian nation been so aggressively pressured by the arrogant powers and reactionary elements of the region at the same time. [passage omitted]

So in carrying out the U.S. policies, the Saudis are now trying to divert the attention and enmity of Muslim nations from their main enemy—Israel. They are using all their means to redirect this enmity for Israel towards the Islamic Iran as the necessary precondition for the official recognition of the Zionist regime's right to exist, and for sacrificing the Palestinian ideals.

Treasonous confessions of Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister of Al Sa'ud, to the fact that their missiles are not a threat to Israel, only hours before breaking their relations with Islamic Iran, is in itself testimony to the aggressive U.S. policy in the Middle East, in which a special role is given to the regime.

The recent threats by the Zionist-Iraqi regime regarding the start of a new round in the war of cities with more powerful missiles, give enough clues as to where the Saudi missiles will be used.

Undoubtedly, the proud and champion Iran nation will be under increasing pressure during the coming months; and the existing evidence indicates an extensive conspiracy taking place, with the East, the West, and the reactionary regimes of the region all actively taking part.

Decisions similar to those made by the Saudis are also expected from some other reactionary regimes in the future. But despite all the pressures, the victorious Muslim people of Iran are determined to carry forward their revolutionary and historic mission to resist and confront the enemies of Islam till victory. And a victory for the Muslims and believers is promised by the Koran.

WIH Spokesman Denies Attacks on Iraqi Cities

LD1205095288 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Thursday categorically denied Baghdad regime's allegations that Iran has attacked Iraqi towns of Darband-e Khan and Qal'at Dizah terming them as "baseless."

The spokesman said that Baghdad radio broadcasts daily rumors on imaginary Iranian raids on different Iraqi cities.

He added that Iran's policy of reprisal in war of cities will remain unchanged and stressed that never in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war Iran has initiated war of the cities.

'Kurdistan Front' Coalition To Fight Iraq

LD1105105588 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 11 May 88

["Kurdistan Front Party, a Coalition Against Ruling Government in Baghdad"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—Assistant to the secretary general of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Noshirwan [name as received] told IRNA that the newly-formed coalition in Iraq will cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fight against the Iraqi army.

PUK, a member of "Iraq's Kurdistan front" set up in Iraq early May consists of Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the Socialist Party of Kurdistan (SPK), the Kurdish Socialist Party (KSP), Iraq's Communist Party (ICP) and the People's Democratic Party of Kurdistan (PDPK).

Noshirwan said that leaders of the above-mentioned party who run the council examined various issues before declaring the establishment of the coalition and that they had the same views on issues concerning Iraq's Kurdistan.

To fight the Iraqi Ba'thist regime is in the manifest [as received] of the coalition, he said, denying reports that an aim of the coalition is to set up a "larger autonomous Kurdistan" and added that the coalition means to attain right of self-determination for inhabitants of Iraq's Kurdistan.

The PUK official noted that PUK and KDP were unified two years ago to coordinate their military, political and propagation [as received] activities against Saddam (Husayn) and that the coalition members were willing to further speed up their actions to overthrow the Baghdad regime.

The coalition has a joint military, financial and political commission to coordinate and command all activities of the coalition including military missions of the member parties which receive their orders from the central military bureau.

A news organisation named Kurdistan News Agency will be set up to convey reports of the activities of Kurdish groups to world news agencies.

The PUK official disclosed that the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has chemically bombed some 10 villages and towns in Iraq's Kurdistan over the past month killing or wounding hundreds of people.

SAIRI Chief Hakim Tours POW Camp 12 May

LD1205063288 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—On the eve of the international Al-Quds Day (Friday) head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hakim toured the Iraqi POW camp "Tariq Al-Quds" (the way to Al-Quds) here Wednesday.

The Iraqi POW's, being treated here as Iranian guests announced their support for the commemoration of the Al-Quds Day and their readiness to fight for the liberation of the first qiblah of Muslims from the Zionist grip.

The SAIRI head in a speech at the camp unveiled the role the Ba'thist regime of Iraq played in the region and its correlation with international Zionism. He also elaborated on Baghdad's role in the signing of the Camp David accord and in wasting Muslim's resources by imposing the war on Islamic Iran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim ensured the POW's that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a strategic supporter of the liberation of the "dear Al-Quds."

The SAIRI head said the forces of Badr Corps 9 will continue fighting to liberate Iraq from the grip of the Iraqi 'Aflaqi regime.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Kurds Attack Iraqi Targets

LD1105182288 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., May 11, IRNA—Iraq's Kurdish Muslim peshmergas captured Ba'thist base in Dahuk last week in a daring operations, inside northern Iraq.

Some Iraqi forces stationed at the base were killed and wounded and three others taken prisoner by the peshmergas. A considerable amount of weapons and munitions was also seized intact by the peshmergas.

Meanwhile, another group of Kurdish peshmergas set ablaze military installations of Chaqlawah town, northeastern Iraq including a tar factory, an Army base, security and intelligence centers, Ba'th Party bureau and a police station, during retaliatory operations over the past days.

Iraqi warplanes chemically bombed the Iranian liberated town of Halabjah on March 18 killing over 5,000 Kurdish people and injuring more than 7,000 others.

Iraqi Jets Overfly Dezful

LD1205105688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, aircraft of the Zionist Iraqi regime violated Dezful airspace at 1021 this morning, but after being confronted by antiaircraft fire by Iran's Air Force, they were forced to flee. According to this report, the intruding Iraqi aircraft broke the sound barrier while fleeing at high altitude.

Pakistan

Afghan Envoy Summoned Over 9 May Bombing

BK1105153588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Thirty Afghan aircraft entered Pakistan airspace near Arandu last Monday [9 May] and dropped eight bombs on Pakistan's territory which damaged the property.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this morning and a strong protest was lodged with him over this unprovoked act.

President Leaves for Mecca on Minor Pilgrimage

BK1205113588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq left Islamabad for Saudi Arabia this afternoon to perform umrah [minor pilgrimage] and attend the Khatmul [recitation of] Koran celebrations at the holy Ka'bah.

The president was accompanied among others by the federal minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Wasim Sajjad; the chief minister of Punjab, Mian Nawaz Sharif; the chief minister of the NWFP, Arbab Jahangir Khan; and the minister of state for petroleum, Chaudhary Nisar Ahmad Khan.

The president will also visit Al-Madinah al-Munawwara [holy] to offer prayers at Masjid al-Navavi.

Situation in Karachi 'Peaceful'; Curfew Relaxed

BK1105154588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The overall situation in the curfew-bound areas of Karachi remained calm and peaceful. There has been no report of any fresh act of violence from any area.

The curfew restrictions in all curfew-bound 14 police station areas were relaxed for various intervals. Curfew restrictions have been relaxed from 1400 to 1600 hours in District Central and 1600 to 2200 hours in District West.

Curfew was relaxed from 1800 to 2000 hours in District East. People flocked to the markets during the curfew relaxation. A survey of different markets during the curfew break shows that commodities are not scarce, and fruits, vegetables, milk, and ice are readily available. Attendance in offices and workshops has also improved.

Meanwhile, law enforcing agencies' personnel have intensified their patrols so that antisocial elements cannot create disturbances.

The Sind government has appointed a special relief commissioner to supervise and complete relief and rehabilitation work in the riot-torn areas of Karachi.

Planning Minister on Seventh 5-Year Plan

BK1205120588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] The draft seventh 5-year plan being launched from the 1st of July next was approved at a meeting of the National Economic Council [NEC] in Islamabad today.

The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, presided. The plan reflects a major thrust toward self-reliance and opening up vast employment opportunities. The NEC also approved the annual plan for the next financial year.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, the federal minister for planning and development, Dr Mahbubul Haq, said the seventh plan envisages a development outlay of 643 billion rupees.

Of this, 350 billion rupees will be in the public sector and 293 billion rupees in the private sector. The plan envisages a growth rate of 6.5 percent in GDP [gross domestic product], which is in line with the actual achievement over the last 5 years on an average.

The federal minister for planning and development said that for the first time a national employment strategy is to be adopted to create 6 million additional jobs.

Sri Lanka

No 'Political Violence' Reported After Accord

BK1105121588 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1121 GMT 11 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 May (LANKA PUWATH)—There has been no political violence in southern Sri Lanka since the signing of the agreement between the Sri Lankan Government and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) [People's Liberation Party] early yesterday morning, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

One killing was reported last night from Ranna in the Tangalle District, where a gramaseaka [village social worker] was shot dead by an unidentified gunman. Police said the motive for the murder had not been established.

Meanwhile, political observers said the main question was whether the JVP accepts the opportunity given by the lifting yesterday of its proscription by the Sri Lankan Government and come out into the open.

Members of the JVP can now move about freely, but they cannot carry arms.

According to the agreement signed yesterday between the Sri Lankan Government and the JVP, which was proscribed after the July 1983 disturbances and subsequently resorted to a campaign of violence and terrorism, the JVP will under the agreement surrender its arms by 29 May.

It has agreed to enter the mainstream of the democratic process and stop all acts of violence effective yesterday.

Signatory to Peace Pact Claims Trickery

BK1105153488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Colombo, May 11 (AFP)—A signatory to a peace pact with the Sri Lankan Government on behalf of a Sinhalese extremist group said Wednesday his action had not been approved by the group's leadership.

The 23-year-old man who represented the extremist Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) told reporters he was tricked by an associate into believing the group's leadership had approved his initiative.

The government lifted a 5-year ban on the JVP after the signing of the pact Tuesday, under which the group was to surrender its arms by May 29 and agree to an immediate ceasefire.

The JVP leader, Rohana Wijeweera, in a letter Wednesday to opposition politicians and newspaper editors denied having agreed to a truce.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told reporters Tuesday that JVP representative Krishna Chandra Senanayake had witnessed the signature of Mr. Wijeweera agreeing to the surrender of arms and an immediate ceasefire.

But Mr. Senanayake told reporters Wednesday he had not seen or spoken to Mr. Wijeweera. He said he thought he had contacts with the JVP leadership through his associate, who gave him a signed copy of the agreement bearing Mr. Wijeweera's supposed signature.

Mr. Senanayake said he had believed the signature was genuine, but now believed it was a fake and felt that his associate, whom he identified as a JVP member named Rohan, may have been a government agent.

The document was being examined by forensic experts, officials said Wednesday.

Mr. Senanayake said he was not a JVP member himself but was a close associate of the group. He also admitted to reporters that he was expelled from a law examination for cheating three years ago.

There was no immediate response from Mr. Athulathmudali or the government to Mr. Senanayake's revelations, but officials said the 5-year-old ban on the JVP had not been reimposed. [passage omitted]

Calls Peace 'Hoax'

BK1205075088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0644 GMT 12 May 88

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 12 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Security Forces have called off operations against Sinhalese extremists although a signatory to a truce with the government has said it was a fake, a military spokesman said Thursday.

A signatory to the peace pact with the government on behalf of the extremist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) said Wednesday the document was a fake and the party's leadership had not approved his action.

Nonetheless, while troops were maintaining road blocks and patrols "they will not carry out cordon-and-search operations against the JVP," the military spokesman said.

He said a ruling United National Party (UNP) man was hacked to death overnight by suspected JVP men in southern Moneragala District, where the group has a stronghold, but "usually there is more than one JVP killing a day."

"Even though the pact is a hoax, there was a certain degree of relief among the people," the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, who signed the pact for the government, said in a statement Thursday that Colombo acted in the interests of the people to ensure peace.

"The government will consider the position that has arisen with the same objective of ensuring peace," the minister said. [passage omitted]

Father Tissa Balasuriya, a Roman Catholic priest who mediated the negotiations, issued a statement Wednesday saying he could not independently confirm whether the JVP leader had actually signed the document.

The JVP has been accused of trying to assassinate 82-year-old President Junius Jayewardene and of killing nearly 300 people who backed a July Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord that sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign.

The group was outlawed in 1983 after suspected involvement in anti-Tamil rioting that left at least 400 people, mainly Tamils, dead.

In 1971, the group led a bloody insurrection that was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

Jayewardene on Illegal Activities of Groups

BK1105114588 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] If at any time organizations step outside the boundaries of the law in the country, it is the function of the security services to see that they abide by the law.

President Jayewardene made this observation, when he addressed those present at the pistol shooting award ceremony held at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] yesterday.

He said that he, as president, had to ensure that the security services continue the work of protecting the integrity, freedom, unity, and the democratic principles of the country.

The president noted that the removal of proscription of any political party or organization does not in any way mean that they could go about on their own destroying and harming the law-abiding citizens of the country.

A state of war has prevailed for several years in the Northern and Eastern Provinces due to a demand by a certain group of individuals for a separation from the central government.

This could not be permitted and the government had to adopt various measures to destroy the movement of separation. Unfortunately, in the other seven provinces too there has been for some time a movement to achieve certain political end, which in a democracy could only be attained by the use of franchise and with the support of the majority of the people.

The president said that it thus became necessary to rule this organization illegal. The government, which the security forces had to protect, is the government of the people, by the people, for the people, and as such there is no question of supporting any dictatorial or military government.

Mr Jayewardene said that even in countries which claim to be democratic, sometimes there are groups and individuals who seem to take the law into their own hand, which is very unfortunate.

3 Ministers, 1 Deputy Minister Sworn in 12 May

BK1205113988 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Three ministers and a deputy minister were sworn in this morning before President J.R. Jayewardene. The deputy minister of food, Sarath Chandra Rajakaruna, took his oath as minister of food.

District Minister for Anuradhapura K.D.N.C. Bandara has been appointed as the minister of agricultural development and research. The deputy minister of labor, Joseph Michael Perera, was sworn in as the minister of labor.

The new deputy minister of rehabilitation and reconstruction is an MP [member of Parliament] for Peradeniya, Gamini Rajapakse.

6 Indian Soldiers Killed by LTTE Landmine

BK1205101088 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0957 GMT 12 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 12 (LANKA PUWATH)—Six members of the Indian peacekeeping force were killed this morning by a LTTE landmine. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the tragedy occurred at 1030 hours local time today at [word indistinct] on Trincomalee-Anuradhapura road in eastern Sri Lanka. A massive

cordon and search operation is on for the terrorists responsible for the crime.

Indian Spokesman Denies Agreement With LTTE

BK1105114988 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] India has described as speculative certain reports which said an agreement between the Indian Peacekeeping Force and the LTTE had been almost finalized. In New Delhi, an official spokesman reiterated India's position that the LTTE should lay down arms, accept the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, and adopt democratic means to find a solution to their problem.

The spokesman added that contacts were on with the LTTE to persuade them to accept the agreement.